

**NEW IMAGE FOR THE BAD BOY OF FORMULA 1**  
Schumacher gets back on track  
**PORT**

**NOT FUNNY, SAY TINA AND HARRY**  
Why New York's golden pair are suing  
**FEATURES, PAGE 15**

**LIAM HAS TO TAKE IT ON THE NOSE**  
Oasis star on assault charge  
**NEWS, PAGE 3**

**TROUBLED WATER FOR PAUL SIMON**  
His new musical hits the rocks  
**ARTS, PAGE 16**

# THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

## Prescott slaps an extra tax on rail tycoons

By Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, is planning "profit-sharing" deals with private train companies to claw back money for the public purse. Despite denials of a "windfall tax" by both Downing Street and Mr Prescott, Whitehall sources made it clear that if train firms come to ask for longer franchise lengths, or propose a take-over, then ministers will ask for a share of future profits.

Mr Prescott is extremely concerned about gains made on behalf of railway privatisation. A week saw seven directors at Great Western – one of the first train companies to fall into private hands – make more than £15m in profits.

Earlier this week, the National Audit Office also attacked the speed of the sell-off of the nation's rolling stock companies, which netted the public purse £1.8bn but were then sold on for £2.6bn plus. One railway manager alone made £33m on a deal with Stagecoach, the bus giant.

However, sources close to Mr Prescott said that since no action could be made retrospectively, this measure was not a "windfall tax". His junior cabinet colleague Gavin Strang found himself at the centre of a political storm when he floated the idea on a BBC programme.

"What is likely is, if a train company seeks, say, an extension to its licence, we will be asking what benefits are there for the passenger and the public purse," a source said.

Mr Prescott himself referred obliquely to the plan in a radio interview. However, he said he wouldn't be so sure "that similar deals would now follow, to great new rules. He pointed to the profit-sharing arrangement he had negotiated with regard to the Channel Tunnel. "Clearly

Bosses cash in, page 6

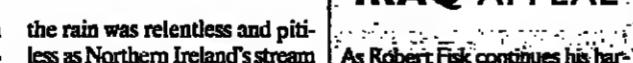
## Friends for life; even in death not far apart

By David McKittrick

TWO FRIENDS gunned down by loyalist renegades – Damien, a Catholic, and Philip, a Protestant – were buried yesterday in the County Armagh village of Poyntzpass, in different cemeteries.

They lived not far away from each other, socialised together and died together when masked gunmen burst into their local bar earlier this week.

10



### IRAQ APPEAL

As Robert Fisk continues his harrowing investigation into the plight of Iraq's innocent children, The Independent's appeal has been flooded with donations from readers who have been touched by their plight. Yesterday, we linked up with the charities Care International and Medical Aid for Iraqi Children, which are already doing much to relieve poverty and sickness in Iraq. They will work closely with us to ensure that your money helps bring medicines to the children who most need them.

Please send cheques made out to The Independent: Bars Fund, PO Box No 6870, London E14 5BT.

## An up and down over the Union Flag

The Diana effect lingers on. The Queen has broken with tradition and decreed that the Union flag will now fly full-mast from Buckingham Palace 24 hours a day – so that it can be lowered to half-mast when a member of the Royal Family dies, writes Kim Sengupta.

In the past the flagpole has been left bare when the Queen was out to reside. This caused a constitutional crisis when the Princess of Wales was killed while the Queen was at Balmoral. The public and sections of the press appeared incensed that there was no flag at half-mast. "Show us you care Ma'am", ran a typical headline.

Palace sources said yesterday's move shows how responsive the new, reforming Royals are to public opinion. The decision was taken at a meeting of the advisory Way Ahead Group. Some constitutional experts detected a deeper, almost Blairite "vision thing" in the flag gesture. The historian David Starkey said: "It means that Buckingham Palace is accepted as a People's Palace". Others said it showed the Royal Family's empathy with the "new Britain".

The Union flag has always flown at full-mast and around the clock at Windsor Castle and the Tower of London even when the Queen is away. The Royal Standard is never lowered to half-mast, the Sovereign, according to protocol, never dies, the next in line immediately assuming that role.

**TROUBLED WATER FOR PAUL SIMON**  
His new musical hits the rocks  
**ARTS, PAGE 16**

## Court fire dashes hope for Louise

By Jason Bennett

IT WAS never going to be a straightforward conclusion to what has become one of the most extraordinary court cases ever. According to the script editors it was supposed to be the day that the British au pair Louise Woodward began an appeal hearing that would decide whether she walked free or was sent back to jail for killing baby Matthew Eappen.

Television crews and excited news editors had prepared themselves for an hour of impassioned speeches, tearful relatives and rabble-raising from supporters back in Britain.

Court 13 of the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston, Massachusetts, was packed six minutes before the appeal was due to begin. Moments earlier Woodward, 20, had arrived through a throng of camera crews and TV reporters.

The drama, however, came from an unexpected source. Five minutes before the start, fire alarms and flashing lights were activated. Hundreds of people were ushered out and commentators started speculating about a bomb threat.

Firefighters started rushing into the building. They found that an electrical transformer in the basement of the 15-storey building had caught fire.

Emergency services said later that at least five people had been taken to hospital after an explosion and a fire in the electrical vault area of the building.

One man, a maintenance worker, was suffering from



Louise Woodward: appeal must wait until Monday

burns and four others, including court officers and one prisoner, were suffering from the effects of smoke. The cause of the fire was not known but firefighters said it was accidental.

Meanwhile the officials in court 13 announced that the hearing would be postponed until Monday. Woodward is believed to have left the building almost immediately.

The two legal teams had intended to present their 25-minute arguments to back up lengthy written submissions already handed in to the seven Supreme Court justices.

Both prosecution and defence are appealing against her manslaughter conviction for the killing of the baby while she was caring for him.

The prosecution is to ask for the jury's second degree murder verdict to be reinstated and a life sentence imposed, with no possibility of parole for 15 years. The defence is seeking a quashing of all convictions.



That's how your money has grown if you invested in our Growth PEP at launch.

To invest this tax year, hurry,

the deadline is April 5.

**direct**

PERSONAL FINANCIAL SERVICE

0345 900 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Past performance is not a guide to the future. The tax status of PEPs will be subject to statutory changes after 6.4.99. You can invest in a Virgin PEP until April 30th. You will be able to transfer your PEP to a new ISA free of charge. Calls are recorded and monitored. \*Source: Micropal, single investment, £3,95 to £3,240, offer to bid price basis, gross income reinvested.

IN THE  
INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY  
TOMORROW**■ Young Love**  
The truth about  
under age sex**■ Recipes**  
from the  
Riviera How  
to create the  
authentic  
flavours of  
the south**■ Living on**  
the moon We  
tell you how**■ Farewell**  
Fags Tried and  
tested: the best  
ways to stop  
smoking

## CONTENTS

News	2-10
Foreign	11-14
Design	15
Fashion	15
Features	16
Obituaries	17
Leader & letters	18
Comment	19
Business	20-22
Shares	23
Unit trusts	24
Sport	25-28
Crossword	28
Concise X-word	The Eye, 10
TV & radio	The Eye, 12
Games	The Eye, 10

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT  
RECYCLINGRecycled paper made up 41.4% of  
the raw material for UK newspapers  
in the first half of 1997.

# Tax raids stop trusts cheating Budget

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

A DAWN swoop on hundreds of millions of pounds in offshore trusts in a pre-Budget crackdown on tax avoidance schemes yesterday raised questions about the £12m trust held by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

The Inland Revenue acted after a tip off that the managers of a number of millionaires' offshore trusts were planning to dodge tax measures in Gordon Brown's 17 March Budget by switching the money back to Britain and passing it to their wives or children to avoid capital gains tax.

The Treasury took the rare step of bringing forward the tax measures with immediate effect to avoid losing sums which officials said could run into "hundreds of millions of pounds". The move will boost Mr Brown's room for raising spending in priority areas, such as health and education, but it led to questions about Mr Robinson's own offshore trust by Tory MPs.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, said he would be challenging Mr Robinson in a Commons debate next Tuesday on whether he would be affected by the change. "We want to know whether Geoffrey Robinson has already done this with his own offshore trust," said Mr Heathcoat-Amory.

Mr Brown yesterday told a fringe meeting at his party's Perth conference he was discussing extending the "New Deal" proposals to the most run-down estates.

The Chancellor told a fringe meeting at Labour's Scottish conference "Up and down the country there are estates where not only large numbers are unemployed, but where there are no businesses, no industry, in some cases no shops, no banks, and where the amenities and facilities necessary to build a successful community are not there."

Some estates had unemployment rates three or four times as high as the national average, high truancy, and few opportunities for training or further education, he said. "Unless we begin to tackle these problems we will not be able to say we have genuinely found a solution to tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment."

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Dawn Primarolo said: "The Government is determined to stem tax leakage by detecting, deterring and countering tax avoidance."

"We will therefore take action, to be included in the next Finance Bill (which will implement the Budget), to prevent avoidance of tax by those who dispose of an interest in, or originate from, a trust which has ever been an offshore trust."

The measure will affect in relation to all disposals on or after today."

The exemption applied to people who had a lifetime interest in the income from older offshore trusts. They could sell their right to the income to somebody else, usually a tax-exempt offshore bank, in return for a lump sum free of capital gains tax.

For example, someone getting £50,000 a year from an offshore trust fund invested in company shares worth £1m could sell their lifetime right to the income in return for, say, £500,000 tax-free.

In the budget, the Chancellor is expected to introduce a new starting rate of a 10p tax for the low paid to encourage more into work, but there could be more means testing of benefits. Treasury ministers have been considering taxing child benefit for the better off.

Mr Brown yesterday told a fringe meeting at his party's Perth conference he was discussing extending the "New Deal" proposals to the most run-down estates.

The Chancellor told a fringe meeting at Labour's Scottish conference "Up and down the country there are estates where not only large numbers are unemployed, but where there are no businesses, no industry, in some cases no shops, no banks, and where the amenities and facilities necessary to build a successful community are not there."

Some estates had unemployment rates three or four times as high as the national average, high truancy, and few opportunities for training or further education, he said. "Unless we begin to tackle these problems we will not be able to say we have genuinely found a solution to tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment."

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Dawn Primarolo said: "The Government is determined to stem tax leakage by detecting, deterring and countering tax avoidance."

## Mother drowned baby after splitting from lesbian partner

A MOTHER who drowned her baby son when she split up from her lesbian partner, was yesterday ordered to be detained in a psychiatric hospital.

Cardiff Crown Court was told how Carol Stokes, 32, became pregnant by a male friend

after she and her lover, Colleen O'Neill, decided they wanted a child together. But she allegedly drowned 16-month-old Lewis in a bath just a week after Miss O'Neill walked out on her.

Stokes, of Adamsdown, Cardiff, pleaded not guilty to

murder but guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Leighton Davies QC, for the prosecution, said: "These are tragic and bizarre circumstances. In 1994, she met and formed a relationship with Colleen

O'Neill and they began living together. A year later they decided they wanted a child and Stokes became pregnant by a male friend. During the pregnancy, but particularly after the birth, she suffered post-natal depression. She had even tried to

electrocute Lewis and herself in the bath, but had failed."

Stokes carried out her threat a week after Miss O'Neill told her she was leaving.

Mr Davies said: "In the months leading up to the death she sought help and was seen by

psychiatrists and social services on several occasions. She openly expressed urges that she wanted to kill herself and her child. But nobody believed her threats were serious although Lewis was placed on the social services at risk register."

Another described how

Poynzpass will always remember them: "Great friends in life, now greater in death."

## WEATHER



## British Isles weather

noon today

Local forecast

Cloudy, scattered

Rain

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

Dust

Hail

Snow

Hail

Thunder

Lightning

Hail

Flood

Wind

Cloud

Haze

Fog

# Bad boy can't stop looking back in anger

IN THE NEWS

## LIAM GALLAGHER

ONCE AGAIN Oasis are in the headlines, and once again it is not for their music, but for their so-called "rock'n'roll behaviour".

Only days after Noel Gallagher launched an attack on Diana, Princess of Wales, his brother Liam has been charged with assault occasioning bodily harm after allegedly head-butting a British fan and breaking his nose. Police said a 19-year-old English fan had been taking a photograph when a member of the band walked up to him, wrapped his arm around him and broke his nose.

Liam Gallagher pleaded not guilty before magistrates, and was released on bail until 9 June with the condition that he provide a \$A10,000 surety (£3,906).

It is the latest exploit from the brothers, who have been called the Kray Twins of rock, and by no means the first time that Liam has been in trouble with the police.

John Peel, the Radio 1 DJ, said yesterday that Liam should grow up. "It's old-fashioned rock'n'roll, but it's also a pain in the neck," he said. "It seems to be all right for him to behave like that because he's in a successful rock band, but if he did in the real world he would probably get a kicking. It's really stupid behaviour."

"He should grow up, and he'd probably find he'd enjoy life a lot more if he did."

Steve Penk, of Capital Radio, said: "The guy is a thug. It's a good job he got a lucky break in a pop band, or he would certainly be in the slammer by now."

But Lyn Irvin, deputy editor of *Mojo* magazine, said Gallagher was simply fulfilling his job description.

"There is a tradition of the front man of a band being cocky and arrogant, and that is all he is doing."

"He is not the creative one, and when he is not actually out there performing, he is like a caged tiger. He ends up in a cycle of pent-up aggression and truculence, but one does wonder how long they can go on behaving like that."

**Kate Watson-Smyth**

ing like that and keep people interested. We must be getting close to saturation point."

Certainly Liam has always appeared to revel in his bad-boy image.

Last July he was cautioned for criminal damage after allegedly grabbing a cyclist's shirt and dragging him alongside the car in which he was a passenger. A few months later Liam was reported to have been ejected by police from a bar in Glasgow Airport, after he began ripping pages out of a book by Sir Paul McCartney.

But this tour has received more bad publicity than is usual – even for Oasis. The band was accused of unruly behaviour during the flight to Australia at the start of the tour, and narrowly escaped an airline ban.

Liam has also been accused of making advances to a young woman in Sydney. Julia Kerrigan said she planned to lodge a complaint, claiming that the singer had followed her from her hotel and had stuffed a used tissue down the front of her shirt, saying: "Here, I have something for you", before running away.

As so often happens when Oasis go on tour, the real reason for them to be there – the music – seems to disappear under an avalanche of rowdy behaviour and complaints.

Ticket sales for last night's concert were reported to be poor, and in Adelaide they attracted only 7,000 fans at £20 a ticket. A week earlier U2 had packed the stadium (capacity 12,000) at £60 a head.

It would seem that the Gallagher master-plan of becoming the "biggest rock band in the world" is in danger of collapsing unless they learn to show a little more respect to their fans.

But whatever the Gallaghers get up to, back at home their mum, Peggy, remains full of pride.

"They will always be my little boys," she says.



Liam Gallagher in Glasgow last December: 'When he is not actually out there performing, he is like a caged tiger'. Photograph: SECC

### WINNING BEHAVIOUR

At the 1996 Brit Awards, Liam grabbed the gold statuette and said: "Anyone tough enough to take us off the stage can come up now." Referring to the presenter, Chris Evans, he added: "It will take more than Ginger Bollocks to throw us off."

He then turned his back on the audience, bent over and pretended to ram the award up his bottom. He sniffed the end of the statuette as he staggered off stage.

### BROTHERLY LOVE

Liam's acceptance of his brother's domination – Noel refers to him only as "our kid" – has caused regular punch-ups between the two. They go days without speaking, even on tour, and Noel once broke a chair over his brother's head. "Our kid can only talk about him . . .



self, how many birds he's shot and how many cables he's thrown across the bar," said Noel.

### PHILOSOPHY

"I live for now, not for what happens after I die," said Liam. "I'm going to hell, not heaven. The devil has all the good gear."

### AND XENOPHOBIA

In 1996 Liam pulled out of the band's America tour 15 minutes before the plane was due to take off, claiming he had to go house-hunting with his fiancée, Patsy Kensit (left). "We've got to be out by the weekend. I'm not going around touring the US when I've got nowhere to live. I've got to pack my gear and get a home sorted out. I can't go and look at houses while I'm in America trying to perform for silly \*\*\*\*ing yanks."

# Bulger killers 'treated badly'

By Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

THE TWO boys convicted of murdering two-year-old James Bulger moved a step closer yesterday to forcing the Government to change the way it deals with children accused of serious crimes.

Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, both now 15, were granted permission to take their case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Solicitors for the youths alleged that their trial in an adult court was "inhuman and degrading" treatment and the Home Secretary, then Michael Howard, should not have been able to set their "tariff" on how long they should serve in prison.

The European Commission of Human Rights, in Strasbourg, yesterday ruled that there was substance to the youths' complaints and that it was admissible for the European Court to make judgement on it.

A ruling in favour of the boys could affect scores of children being held for serious crimes and change the system of dealing with minors.

It would also force the Government to review the system which allows Home Secretaries to decide how long children detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure should serve. However, the case is likely to take many years before it reaches court and even if it finds in favour of Venables and Thompson it would not lead to a re-trial or force the government to reduce the sentences.

Karen Bulger, James' aunt, criticised yesterday's ruling, saying: "I think it's the wrong decision. They got a fair trial. They were treated as kids, they were interviewed as kids by the police. They should stop doing this and accept their punishment."

The two boys were sentenced to serve a minimum of eight years. This was later increased to 10 years by the Lord Chief Justice and after a massive campaign led by James' mother Denise, the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, further increased the tariff to 15 years.

This was quashed last year by the House of Lords and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who now has to decide on a new tariff for Thompson and Venables. Mr Straw has said that he would review their detention at the halfway stage of their sentences.

# Bodyguard forbidden to talk to the press

by John Lichfield  
Paris

REVER Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the road accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday confirmed that he had regained sketchy memories of events leading up to the crash.

He told French investigators in Paris that he stood by the new details he had given to the *Mirror*, in an interview arranged by his employer, Mohamed Al Fayed, without knowledge.

But the judge leading the inquiry made Mr Rees-Jones promise that he would give no more press interviews and that any further memories which returned would be given directly in the investigation team.

Reading between the lines, it is clear that both Judge Hervé Stéphan, and Mr Rees-Jones are unhappy with the circumstances in which the interview was conducted. The judge has summoned Mr Fayed in a meeting in Paris next week. Mr Rees-Jones asked the British embassy in Paris to make all the arrangements, including security, for his visit to the French capital yesterday. On previous visits, Mr Fayed's organisation handled these arrangements.

Asked what was the nature of his rela-



Trevor Rees-Jones: Stands by details that he gave to the *Mirror*

In his comments to the *Mirror*, the bodyguard said the Mercedes containing the princess's party had been closely followed by two cars and a motorcycle before the accident six months ago which killed Diana, Mr Fayed's son Dodi, and the driver, Henri Paul. But he did not say whether or not this was immediately before the crash. He also said that Diana had been conscious just after the accident and said "Dodi".

Judge Stéphan and his investigation team are said to have lost patience with the activities of Mr Fayed, who has constantly cast doubt on the efficiency – and even the honesty – of the French inquiry. His allegations that the crash was not an accident but a plot and an assassination are dismissed by French investigators as unsupported by a shred of evidence.

Although it seems likely that the Mercedes struck another car, probably a white Fiat Uno, just before it crashed, the French investigation still regards the drunkenness of the driver, Mr Paul, a Fayed employee, as the single most important cause of the accident.

Sources close to the investigation also point out that the physical evidence suggests that the Mercedes ran into the Fiat and not the other way round.

## Telephone will reveal your bank account

by Michael Harrison

A NEW telephone handset that enables subscribers to call up their bank accounts, flight arrival times and even the weather forecast on screen and at the touch of a button will be launched in Britain this autumn.

Called Easiphone, it is a combination of a conventional handset, a miniature keyboard and a six-inch screen. Users will also be able to go home shopping online via a "virtual high street" guided by an voice prompts.

The handset will retail at around £150 and BT, which is developing the product in partnership with the Cheshire-based

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

is in talks with 30 content providers, ranging from banks

and airports to retailers and rail companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the

first in a range of "multi-media"

products being planned by BT

which could revolutionise the

home. It is also developing a

web phone with a built-in In-

ternet browser which will sell

initially at £499 and a new

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

is in talks with 30 content providers, ranging from banks

and airports to retailers and rail

companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the

first in a range of "multi-media"

products being planned by BT

which could revolutionise the

home. It is also developing a

web phone with a built-in In-

ternet browser which will sell

initially at £499 and a new

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

is in talks with 30 content providers, ranging from banks

and airports to retailers and rail

companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the

first in a range of "multi-media"

products being planned by BT

which could revolutionise the

home. It is also developing a

web phone with a built-in In-

ternet browser which will sell

initially at £499 and a new

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

is in talks with 30 content providers, ranging from banks

and airports to retailers and rail

companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the

first in a range of "multi-media"

products being planned by BT

which could revolutionise the

home. It is also developing a

web phone with a built-in In-

ternet browser which will sell

initially at £499 and a new

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

is in talks with 30 content providers, ranging from banks

and airports to retailers and rail

companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the

first in a range of "multi-media"

products being planned by BT

which could revolutionise the

home. It is also developing a

web phone with a built-in In-

ternet browser which will sell

initially at £499 and a new

company Bizzylane, aims to sell 1 million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT

# Ex-wife denies acid attack plot to ruin husband

THE ex-wife of a businessman accused of arranging a failed nitric acid attack on her yesterday denied she had anything to do with the incident.

Susan Humphrey, 37, was recalled to give further evidence at Exeter Crown Court in the trial of her former husband, 51-year-old Peter Humphrey.

The prosecution has claimed that Humphrey did not throw the acid, but arranged the attack at his then estranged wife's home because of his obsessive jealousy over the breakdown of his nine-year marriage.

The acid thrower has not been caught.

On that night, Mrs Humphrey's babysitter, 21-year-old Beverley Hammett, was scared for life when the acid was thrown when she answered the door of Mrs Humphrey's secluded home, called Camelot, in Seaton, Devon.

At the start of his re-examination today, defence counsel Gilbert Gray put to her: "If you want a man removed from your life, you are prepared to be dishonest, aren't you?", to which Mrs Humphrey replied: "No, I am not."

The counsel put to her that

if acid was thrown at the front door Mr Humphrey - whose household products manufacturing business dealt in acid - would be in deep trouble.

Mrs Humphrey replied: "If acid was thrown at anybody's front door and anybody dealt in acid would not anybody automatically be in trouble?"

But Mr Gray suggested:

"You knew that man would be put in the frame?" She replied: "I refuse to answer that. I think it is a ridiculous question."

Mrs Humphrey, who wept in the witness box at some stages of her evidence, said: "You are trying to put doubt in the jury's mind," and added: "I have told the truth totally."

Humphrey from Axminster, Devon, has pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting a person or persons unknown to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to Mrs Humphrey on July 10, 1996.

Mr Gray put to Mrs Humphrey: "Did you have anything to do with the throwing of acid at Camelot?" - to which she replied: "I had nothing to do with the throwing of any acid."

The trial was adjourned until Monday, when the judge will sum up the evidence to the jury.

"Have you spoken to any-

body, ever had any friends to help you?" asked counsel - "Never," she replied.

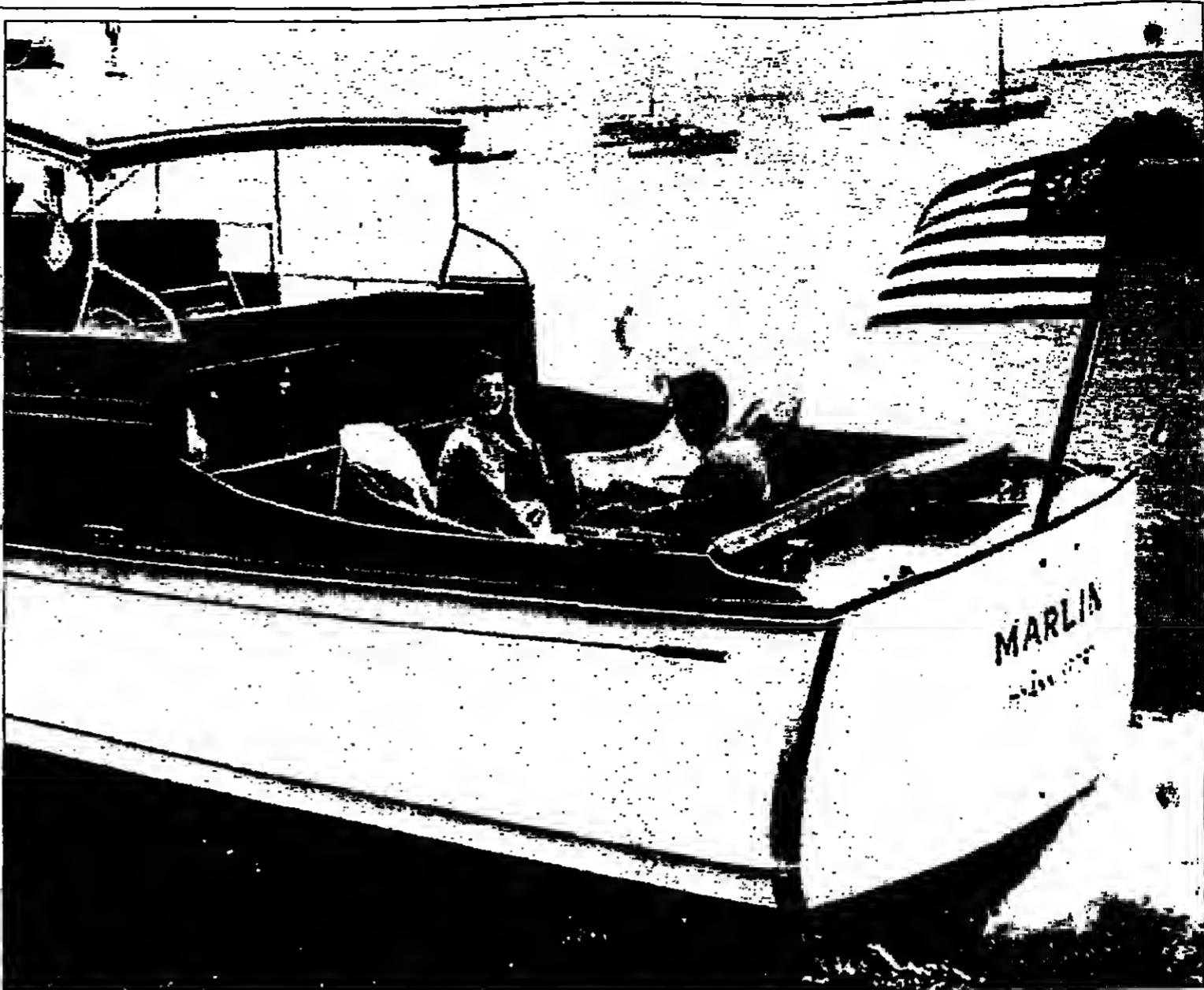
"You do not know of anybody else who might have had anything to do with it?" asked counsel - "I would not know anyone who would do such a horrendous act," said Mrs Humphrey.

On the night of the incident, the court has heard, Mrs Humphrey had gone to hospital to see her sister, while Humphrey was in a country pub with two women.

Mr Gray put it to Mrs Humphrey that in the past she had made an allegation that her first husband, 49-year-old Peter Culley, had tried to strangle her. She also told Mr Gray she did not remember another incident in which she said Mr Culley tried to strangle her after a row over a radio.

In answer to a question from Judge Graham Cottle, Mr Gray said the purpose of the cross-examination was to show making false allegations was "no novelty" to Mrs Humphrey.

The trial was adjourned until Monday, when the judge will sum up the evidence to the jury.



For sale: The Marlin, a 52-foot motor yacht which was the scene of glamorous trips and high-level Cold War talks by US President John F Kennedy (pictured with wife Jackie). The yacht is expected to fetch around £125,000 when it is sold by Christie's in New York next month

# FACTORY PRICES

## NOW DIRECT FROM PC WORLD!

You can now get the latest technology at factory prices AND still get the very best in service. Try before you buy and take your new PC home today or order direct.

PLUS FREE 12 MONTHS ON-SITE SERVICE.



### Advent

233MHz AMD K6 MMX Enhanced Processor

- Desktop case • 32Mb EDO RAM
- 512k Cache • 3.2Gb HDD
- 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- 15" Digital Monitor • 50W Speakers
- 4Mb 3D ATI Graphics
- 33.6Kbps Modem
- MS Windows 95 plus Lotus SmartSuite

MODEL: KS00. Was £1099 inc VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION!

£799 EX VAT | £938.83 INC VAT

### Advent

233MHz Intel Pentium II Processor

- 64Mb SDRAM • 512k Cache • 5.2Gb UDMA HDD • 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- Intel LX Motherboard • 15" Digital Monitor
- 50W Speakers • 4Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 33.6Kbps Modem • MS Windows 95 plus Lotus SmartSuite, Incoming 3D, Compton's Encyclopedias and more

MODEL: 8330. Was £1299 inc VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION!

£999 EX VAT | £1173.83 INC VAT

PRODUCTS INTRODUCED AT THE HIGHER PRICES AT LEAST 21 DAYS AGO.

### Advent

333MHz Intel Pentium II Processor

- 64Mb SDRAM • 512k Cache • 6.4Gb UDMA HDD • 56Kbps Modem • 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM • Intel LX Motherboard • 15" Digital Monitor
- 4Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 50W Speakers • MS Windows 95 plus Lotus SmartSuite, Incoming 3D, Compton's Encyclopedias and more

MODEL: 8500. Was £1799 inc VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION!

£1299 EX VAT | £1526.33 INC VAT

PRODUCTS INTRODUCED AT THE HIGHER PRICES AT LEAST 21 DAYS AGO.

ORDER DIRECT ON FREEPHONE 0500 504030

OR VISIT YOUR NEAREST STORE

■ ABERDEEN	■ EAST KILBRIDE	■ MANCHESTER	■ PRESTON	■ SHEFFIELD	■ SPALFORD
■ BIRMINGHAM	■ EDINBURGH	■ GATESHEAD	■ MERRY HILL-DUDLEY	■ READING	■ STOKE
JUNC. 9 OFF AM	■ GLASGOW	■ NORTHAMPTON	■ NORTH SHIELDS	■ SHERE	■ SWANSEA
■ BRISTOL	■ NEWCASTLE	■ NOTTINGHAM	■ NORTHUMPTON	■ SOUTHAMPTON	■ TRENTHAM
■ CANTERBURY	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ NORWICH	■ NORWICH	■ STOURPORT	■ WIRRAL
■ DURHAM	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ PETERBOROUGH	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ STOKE	■ WIRRAL
■ CHATHAM	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ PLYMOUTH	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ SWANSEA	■ WIRRAL
■ COVENTRY	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ PORTSMOUTH	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ TREVOR	■ WIRRAL
■ DONCASTER	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ POOLE	■ NOTTS & DERBYSFIELD	■ TREVOR	■ WIRRAL
■ LIVERPOOL					

PC WORLD  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Telephone orders will require a 10% deposit. Prices exclude cost of delivery, delivery charges from £15 excluding VAT. Phone lines are operated Monday-Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Advent products cannot be directly ordered in the Republic of Ireland. UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. Account is relevant but if rejected at half before the 12th monthly payment. Options are as follows: 9 months for products £799-£1299 inc VAT, 12 months for products over £1300 inc VAT. Typical example: Cash price £1299, 12 months interest free option of £129.11 monthly payments of £107.59. Subject to be approved by a third party finance company. Credit £1299 over 12 months at 19.9% p.a. Total amount paid £1349.22 inc VAT. All loans subject to status. APR 29.5%.

No Deposit Credit Option available in-store. Written Credit quotations are available on request from Dept. BSC/PCW, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7JG. The Intel Inside Logo, Pentium and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation. © 1997 PC World Ltd

## Store seeks cashback after planning upset

A COUNCIL is facing a crippling compensation claim after agreed planning permission for a new supermarket was overturned following a campaign by villagers.

Mr Prescott's decision marks a victory for villagers in Alnwick. The civic society, town council and chamber of trade all opposed the store.

Peter McIlroy, of Alnwick Civic Society, said: "We have never been able to understand how the council came to be wriggling on this particular hook."

"Alnwick is a market town. A Safeway supermarket would have destroyed the town centre. The council may face a compensation claim - but this will be peanuts compared to the cost if the town centre closed down."

The ruling reads: "The council was grossly wrong to grant permission when the clear evidence was, and is, that it would adversely affect the viability and viability of Alnwick town centre."

Alnwick District Council's chief executive, Lawrie St Ruth, said: "I'm astonished by this decision. Why Alnwick has been singled out by them."

The Government for this rare used and heavy-handed interference defies comprehension. Any compensation claim would not affect services, he added.

The council is to take legal advice on a possible challenge to the decision.

A Safeway spokesman said: "We are very disappointed with this decision. We do not accept that the store would have had a negative effect on the town centre - quite the contrary."

"This store would have prevented the leakage of traffic away from Alnwick. In the long term, Alnwick will continue to decline."

"We will be seeking compensation from the council. We paid a price which reflected the outline planning consent."

"This has severe implications when purchasing land planning consent is now not the concrete base it once was."

"Contracts may now have to have a revocation clause in them."

## Policeman's attacker Inquiry ordered into sentenced to 21 years RUC assault charge

A ROBBER who left a policeman with brain damage after beating him about the head with a hammer, was jailed for 21 years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

PC Andrew MacDonald, 31, was praised by Judge Michael Coombes for tackling Gary Lawrence, 25, when he saw him robbing a petrol station in Woolwich, south London. The police officer's skull and arm were fractured, he spent three months in a wheelchair and has been unable to return to work since the assault eight months ago. After the "violent struggle" Lawrence, from Deptford, south-east London, was found hiding in an alley. He was found guilty of robbery and causing grievous bodily harm, jailed for six years for the robbery and 15 years, to run consecutively, for the GBH.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

David Adams, 39, was awarded £30,000 damages after he was left badly beaten as police foiled an IRA ambush of a top detective in Belfast four years ago. He was later sentenced to 25 years for his part in a murder conspiracy which he denied. At the time of his arrest he suffered a broken leg, two fractured ribs, a punctured lung and multiple cuts and bruises.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

The Independent Commission for Policing Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterday that Strathclyde's Assistant Chief Constable Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry into alleged RUC misconduct.

## What I have to prove, by Donatella Versace

By Tamsin Blanchard  
in Milan

DONATELLA VERSACE took the unprecedented step yesterday of hosting a press conference, to preview her second collection for the house since her brother's death last year. "I'm very nervous," she confessed. "I think I have more to prove ... It was easier when Gianni was here."

Dressed in a black trouser suit and spiky black patent leather boots, Donatella fingered the dark sunglasses bearing her family name, her petite fingers weighed down by huge diamond crustaceans. Her brother Santo, the business brains behind the company, watched her pensively from one side. "The collection is about today and what's going on in the world," she said. "It's very important to be in touch with reality." Quite where the Versace take on reality meets everyone else's is unclear. For most women, a flic chifon ruffled evening dress, a metallic bouclé trouser suit, a pair of combat boots with faux diamonds studded in the heels, a canary yellow fox-fur-collared cashmere coat, or a silver chain mail all-in-one pant suit, fly far into the realms of fantasy. But for Donatella, there is nothing impractical about these clothes. "Personally, I like pants for day and skirts for evening. The fabrics don't wrinkle, so it's easier to travel in them." On Concorde maybe, but try getting the chain mail all in one through the metal detector.

Donatella also put to rest rumours of who will design the next *haute couture* collection for the house. The British designers Antonio Berardi, Antony Price and Deborah Milner have all been mentioned in connection with the job. "I've been approached by people, and I'm flattered," she said. But for the foreseeable future, the job remains in her hands, with the help of design assistants from Central St Martin's.

The collection itself is confident and assured. Models walk down a Swarovski crystal glittering catwalk, wearing the silhouette that Donatella has decreed will be the look of next autumn: long and lean. Skirts are almost floor length; jackets have narrow kimono sleeves. Colours range from purple to black, with silver and a splash of yellow.



Glitter girl: Naomi Campbell models a gown at the Versace collection in Milan. Photograph: Luca Bruno/AP

## Hunting ban Bill runs out of time

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, is under pressure to announce an inquiry into blood sports to head off the Labour MPs' demands for a ban on fox-hunting after a Private Member's Bill yesterday looked doomed to a lingering death.

After last Sunday's mass march on London by the countryside lobby, dominated by the hunting, shooting and fishing fraternity, the Bill to ban fox-hunting was slowly dispatched with a whimper.

The anti-hunting campaign managed a token protest of 12 bedraggled people, with four banners, in the rain outside the Commons.

The Tory old guard who led the assault on the Bill were nearly tripped up by new technology. Michael Heseltine, who led the charge, was in full flow during his speech, when his mobile telephone went off in contravention of a ruling by the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd. Mr Heseltine, a former minister in

charge of technology, fumbled with the instrument before carrying on. Supporters of the Bill tried to force the pace by halting a debate on one amendment with a closure vote.

The opera hat – needed to make a point of order during a division – was passed around during the vote as the supporters of the Bill cried foul over the slowness of their opponents.

The Sergeant at Arms was dispatched to investigate, but it was clear that the number of amendments would leave the Bill too little parliamentary time, and it will get the *coup de grace* next Friday.

Tony Blair, who was in Scotland, told MPs last year that Labour's election manifesto commitment to allow a free vote had been fulfilled. But the size of the record 260-vote majority on the Bill's second reading last November was a warning that the demands will not go away.

A cross-party group of MPs, including the Labour MP Kate Hoey, who are seeking a "middle way" out of the foxhunting row, last night led calls for an

independent inquiry to allow a compromise to be reached.

An inquiry has not been ruled out by Michael Foster, the Labour MP who introduced the Bill. Supporters of the ban fear an inquiry will be used to put the issue off until after the next election, but it may keep alive their hopes. They were furious with Mr Straw for saying the Government had no mandate for a ban. Former Labour frontbencher, Kevin McNamara said: "There will be many Labour supporters ... who will see this as a sheer shift of ground from 'no time this session' to 'no time ever'".

Mr Straw is anxious to avoid the Government's Crime and Disorder Bill being targeted in the autumn by anti-hunting MPs to outlaw foxhunting.

Government sources confirmed that Home Office officials were studying an inquiry among the options for dealing with public concern about blood sports.

Ms Hoey said: "Today's debate strengthened the case for an independent inquiry because so many new things were coming out."

## Library book 135 years overdue

A BOOK which went missing from a county council library 135 years ago was today back in its rightful place on the shelf.

The book, *De Naturis Reum*, which was borrowed from Stafford Library in 1863, was discovered in the library of the University of Chicago. Since it was borrowed it has accrued a fine of more than £4,000, but Staffordshire's libraries committee agreed to waive the fee.

Yesterday Staffordshire University librarian Kevin Ellard acted as postman to return the book on behalf of colleagues in the United States.

The book, which is described

This Volume is presented by the Lord  
Chancellor of Her Majesty's Treasury to  
Staffordshire Public Library  
and will, in the event of the Library being broken  
up, be returned to the Controller of Her Majesty's  
Stationery Office, Westminster.

man Joyce Meny said: "I would encourage people to return books more promptly than this, but it is a pleasure to have our book back."



### THE MAREA WEEKEND. A FIAT THAT'S BIGGER THAN YOU'D THINK.

Just one look at the Marea Weekend's photogenic curves speaks volumes. Especially in terms of cubic feet. Like all Fiats, class-leading design means it's extremely roomy for its size. But the Marea Weekend is surprisingly big on the outside too.

Big enough to give you all the comfort you'll

need to make a long haul seem like a short hop. And just in case anyone gets even the slightest bit restless on their journey, we've added a height adjustable driver's seat, power steering and an RDS stereo cassette as standard.

Spoiling our drivers doesn't stop there. The Weekend offers a huge choice of engines

from the frugal 1.6 16v to the smooth, brawny 5 cylinder, 2 litre 20v. There's even a choice of superb turbo diesels.

There's less choosing to be done when it comes to advanced safety features. A driver's airbag, a rigid safety cell, reinforced crumple zones, a third brake light and side impact bars come

as standard on every Marea Weekend.

Further peace of mind can be found with an on the road price starting at £13,940\* and 0% finance available over 3 years with a 35% deposit:

Just call 0800 717 000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or pop down to your local Fiat dealer for more information, but be prepared to get more than you bargained for.

**FIAT MAREA WEEKEND**

**DRIVEN BY PASSION FIAT**

£13,940 VEHICLE PRICES EXCL VAT EXCL CASH PRICE ON THE ROAD (WITH METALLIC PAINT). \*CASH PRICE EXCL FOR MAREA WEEKEND 1.6 16V, CLOTH, DEPOSIT 33%, MONTHLY REPAYMENTS OF £281.49, APR 15.75%. AMOUNT FINANCED £2,000.00. EXCL VEHICLE PRICE INCLUDES £500 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES VAT AND 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX AND LICENCE. IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 20/01/98. OFFER ENDS 31/03/98. DEPOSIT OFFER REQUIRES A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 35% AVAILABLE TO APPROXIMATELY 16 AND OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS. THIS OFFER CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. A GUARANTEE AND INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT AUTO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED, 100 KENSINGTON PARK RD, LONDON W8 4SD. SPARES

cashbad  
g upset

ANOTHER  
REPORT  
SAYS  
WE DON'T  
DO IT  
BUT WE  
DO IT  
ANYWAY.  
WE DON'T  
DO IT  
BUT WE  
DO IT  
ANYWAY.

ry ordered in  
assault charge

ROW-  
LONA  
18  
VAY.)



bosse  
in on  
atised  
y train

## Son of real-life 'Fugitive' in battle to prove his father's innocence



David Janssen as Dr Richard Kimble in the 1960s television serial *The Fugitive*, which was based on the Sheppard case

By Nicholas von Herberstein

A DOCTOR whose bizarre life story formed the basis of the long-running television serial *The Fugitive* has still not been completely cleared of a murder he did not commit despite new DNA evidence.

Dr Sam Sheppard was acquitted in 1966 of beating his wife to death after spending 10 years in prison. However, unlike in the television version, starring David Janssen, and the movie with Harrison Ford, Dr Sheppard became "a broken and bitter man, turned to alcohol and painkillers ... and died four years later from liver complications," said Terry Gilbert, the attorney for the Sheppard estate which is pursuing the case through the Ohio Supreme Court.

His body was exhumed in September for a forensic test. Comparing the DNA of Dr Sheppard and samples found in a smear from Marilyn Sheppard, as well as another sam-



Sheppard on his way to jail after being convicted in 1954

ple from the original crime scene, has led to calls for a retrial.

The defence is pointing the finger at Richard Eberling, the Sheppards' window cleaner, who is currently serving a sentence for the murder of an

elderly widow in 1984. Eberling has denied the murder of Mrs Sheppard, and according to authorities, was subjected to two polygraph tests during the original investigation in 1954, which he passed.

Sam Reese Sheppard, the

only son of Dr Sheppard, is unconvinced of Eberling's innocence, and is seeking redress through the legal system for his father's imprisonment. If he is successful, he could stand to gain \$2m (£1.25m).

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the county prosecutor, argues that Sam Reese Sheppard has no legal standing. "If the Supreme Court says that the statute of limitations has run its course, then there is no law suit. What I am saying is that it has, because Sam Sheppard had never sought a wrongful incarceration claim, nor did he say that he would seek anything from the state of Ohio."

If the case does go ahead, the burden of proof for innocence will lie with the defence. "We are hopeful for a successful outcome. The last time, Sam Sheppard was vilified by the press and the community. Allegations were flying around that he was acquitted because he had a slick lawyer. This time we will prove his innocence," said Terry Gilbert.

## Block on backdoor assisted places

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

COUNCILS will be stopped from introducing "backdoor" assisted places schemes under Government changes to legislation before the Commons.

The national assisted places scheme, which subsidised bright pupils from low-income families in private schools, was abolished by the Government immediately after it came to power. The money saved will be used to reduce infant class sizes.

However, Conservative-controlled Surrey County Council announced recently that it intended to send 200 children from poor backgrounds to a private school.

Ministers have introduced amendments to the School Standards and Framework Bill to give the Secretary of State power to block attempts by local authorities to introduce their own version of the scheme.

Stephen Byers, the schools standards minister, has made it clear that the Government does not intend to interfere with long-standing arrangements and councils would not, for example, be prevented from buying places for special needs pupils in private schools. Lincolnshire County Council has bought places for pupils at fee-paying Stamford School for many years.

Details of the Surrey scheme and any others which were proposed would be studied and the Secretary of State for Education would decide whether they should be allowed.

Mr Byers told the House of

Commons committee considering the Bill: "The Government opposes local education authorities buying places in independent schools, thereby taking children out of the maintained sector and offering them a different type of education.

"This is not partnership, but creates divisions in the school sector."

The Secretary of State would therefore have power to prescribe the circumstances in which local authorities could provide places in private schools. He hoped to use it rarely, if at all.

Dick Davison, of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "The assisted places scheme is an issue on which new Labour is stubbornly old Labour."

"We are making such promising contact with them in other areas, it is a shame that their minds are closed over the idea of using public money to support low-income children in independent schools."

It was inconsistent, he added, for the Government to allow authorities to pay for places in music and ballet at private schools while barring them from academic facilities.

Dr Andrew Povey, chairman of Surrey's education committee, said: "We welcome the Government's positive attitude towards working in partnership with independent schools."

"We look forward to continuing dialogue and the subsequent development of a variety of schemes which will benefit Surrey children."

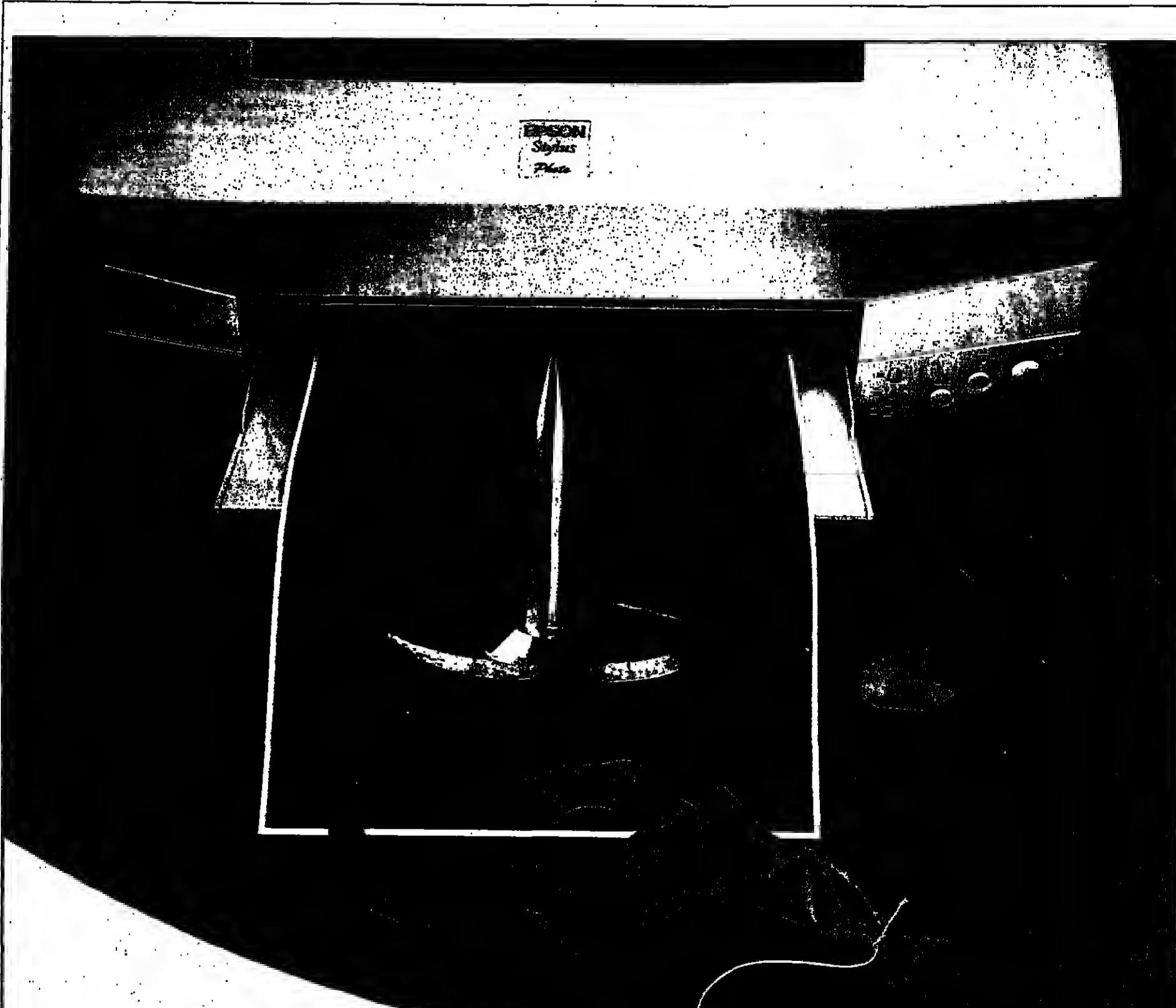
## Teachers to get inspections referee

TEACHERS aggrieved about the conduct of Ofsted inspections will be able to complain to an "Ombudsman", the Government is due to announce next week.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, and the Chief Schools Inspector, Chris Woodhead, will announce the appointment of an independent arbitrator, fulfilling a pledge made last year in the education White Paper.

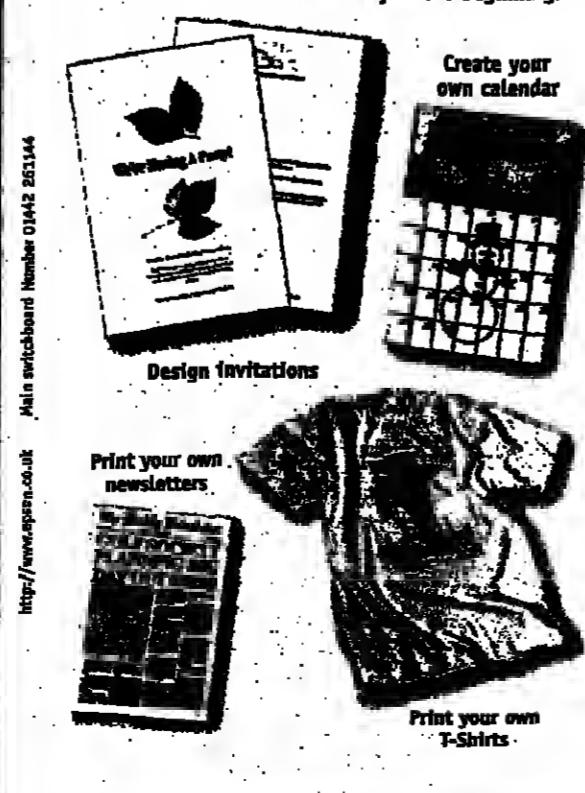
The move will be welcomed by teachers' leaders and critics of Ofsted, who have complained about a "reign of terror" being conducted in schools.

But sources at Ofsted were quick to make it clear that the new complaints procedure will not be a "court of appeal" over judgements in inspection reports. "This will not be an opportunity for a school to seek to change a judgement that it is failing to deliver an acceptable standard of education," they said.



## For unbelievably pin sharp photos and documents, look no further.

Photos and documents are just the beginning.



Only EPSON has a unique Piezo Crystal print head which guarantees pin sharp prints every time. This gives EPSON a distinct edge when it comes to producing high quality photo and text print outs.

In fact EPSON Photo Reproduction Quality is so good it gives you prints which rival those produced by high street developers. And if your prints look good, imagine what your other documents will look like.

EPSON PhotoEnhance mode will automatically adjust brightness, exposure and contrast, leaving you with truly superb results. You'll even be able to print from 4x6" right up to A4.

The EPSON Stylus Photo also comes with Live Pix (V1.0) photo editing software, which means you can manipulate your photos at the touch of a button, even remove red eye. And of course it's Windows and Apple Mac compatible.

We'll even throw in a sample paper pack to help get you started. All this for around £259. For more information on the EPSON Stylus Photo call 0800 220 546 or pop into your local EPSON dealer.

**EPSON®**





The end. A miner (right) waiting to go underground for the last shift at South Crofty, and the Cornish flag flying defiantly (left), with the pithead behind

Photograph:  
Peter Macdiarmid

## Cornwall's tin men bid final farewell to 4,000 years of industry

By Rosa Prince

**THE LAST** piece of tin from Britain's last tin mine has been sold, and yesterday Cornwall's last 150 tin miners worked their final shift. Although there is still enough tin to keep miners in work for many years, its world price has fallen so far it is no longer profitable to mine.

For the past 13 years South Crofty mine, near Redruth, has been run at a loss, its workforce waiting for the price of tin to rise. Now its owners will wait no longer and a hoped-for government bail-out failed to emerge. On Thursday - St Piran's Day, the Patron Saint of Cornwall and of tin - the last piece of tin was auctioned at a hotel.

But the miners, initially resigned to Crofty's closure, are furious after the news leaked out yesterday that the mine manager, David Giddings, had bought a controlling share. Michael James, a miner for 22 years, said: "We have been sold down the river but there's nothing we can do about it." Mr Giddings said: "I was offered the shares, so I bought 8.6 million of them and became major shareholder of South Crofty plc. But it is a personal transaction, no different from me buying shares in ICI. The timing... is insensitive and I was worried as anyone at that."

Sue Swift, chair of Kerrier council, said: "All the time I thought we were working with him, he was working to his own agenda. It is scandalous, it is just shocking."

Miners arriving for the final shift yesterday were dressed in overalls and hard hats stained pink over the years from dust. They got into the lift in teams of eight and were lowered 3,000ft into the ground. It is unlikely the mine will reopen: one and a half million gallons of water are pumped out of the mine every day and now that stops - on Friday, 13 March - the mine will flood.

Before the tin price collapsed in 1985, South Crofty employed 750 miners. A few of the 150 remaining will stay to help close South Crofty but most will start new jobs or go on the dole. Several of those already made redundant now earn £3.35 an hour packing daffodil bulbs.

Mark Kaczmarek, who worked at South Crofty for 17 years with his father and brother, said the miners do not want other jobs. "This mine has been a mother to a lot of people and it's being allowed to die." The miners worked hard to try to save the mine. The workforce took a pay cut and doubled productivity.

Bernard Ballard, operations manager, said: "Mining is a very intensive business... Lives are potentially at risk and you are relying on your partner. That builds very strong relationships. You love it or you hate it. It's in the blood."

Redruth and nearby Camborne were built on mining. At the height of the Industrial Revolution there were 350 mines in Cornwall. Local MP Candy Atherton said: "If you have had a mining tradition for 4,000 years, generations of people have relatives who have worked in mining. It is very sad and the closure of South Crofty does not help the general sense of decline in Cornwall."

The miners re-emerge at the end of the final shift and are bussed down by their colleagues as they stand in the lift cages. Geoffrey Harvey, who worked in the mine with his son Richard, said: "At least he's of an age where someone will give him a job. Who is going to employ a 53-year-old?" Cedric Patterson said: "We had expected the mine to close for some time, but the mood down there today was very sombre."

Outside the gates of South Crofty a crowd gathered, waving Cornish flags, to hold a vigil for the miners. One of those present, Stuart Gilmore, said: "It is a very sad day. Closing the mine is a stupid thing to do - it is wrong from a practical as well as a sentimental point of view. There is still tin down there."



## Theatre bars brewery scheme

By David Lister  
Art News Editor

**CAMPAGNERS** whose battle to save a community theatre was backed by the actress Susannah York have won their fight to stop it being turned into a pub.

An inquiry on The Waterside Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday found in favour of the District Council, which opposed plans by the JD Wetherspoon brewery to open a bar and restaurant on the site.

York had told the inquiry in an emotional speech: "Once a theatre is gone, no matter how large or small, it is another brick removed from the foundations of our culture." Wetherspoon appealed to the environment department after the council blocked its application for permission to change the theatre.

Inspector Gillian Grindley dismissed Wetherspoon's appeal, stating: "This would harm an interest of acknowledged importance, namely the local distinctiveness and uniqueness of the town."

The campaigners, who include councillors, amateur thespians and residents, were backed by staff at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, who added their congratulations and pledged continuing support to The Friends of the Waterside Theatre. Councillor Dr Geoffrey Lees, who led the council's campaign, said everyone was delighted. "There has been an overwhelming reaction to the decision. We all delighted and are very grateful to everyone who backed us. I have written to Susannah York thanking her for her wonderful contribution."

The council will now apply for lottery and arts council funding to refurbish the venue, and will also make council funding available for the project.

In London it was announced yesterday that the National Theatre had bought the Old Vic Annex for £1.1m from Ed Mirvisch Enterprises Ltd, owners of The Old Vic theatre.

# THE Freshest

233MHz PROFESSIONAL SYSTEM

**G6-233**

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM, (expandable to 384MB)
- 512KB Pipeline Burst Cache
- 42GB 10ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 3SX min/32X max 90ms CD-ROM
- STB 7/Vidia Riva 128-BE AGP 3D Graphics Accelerator, w/ 4MB SGRAM

£949 (£1149.15 inc VAT & Delivery)

From the COMPANY that was BORN on a FARM

Since Gateway 2000 began life on a farm, we understand more than most the importance of a fresh product. That's why we build your computer only when you order it. This way you know your PC hasn't been sitting in a warehouse gathering dust. The G6-233 system shown here is only one example of what Gateway 2000 can make for you. We'd like to chat with you first, however, to find out your needs. You'll find our fresh technology together with our technical support for as long as you own your GATEWAY™ system, makes Gateway 2000 unbeatable value. Call us on the freephone number shown here, not forgetting to ask about our flexible finance options.

**GATEWAY2000**  
You've got a friend in the business.  
0 800 39 2000  
<http://www.gateway2000.co.uk>

©1998 Gateway 2000 Europe. Black-and-white photo design. "G" logo, "Gateway" and "GATEWAY" are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. All rights reserved. All trademarks and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices quoted in Sterling. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 standard terms and conditions and limited warranty. Industry standard practice is to measure monitors using the CRT size. Actual viewing area can be approx. 12% less.

## BT has made the weekend cheaper.



Local Calls 1p



National Calls 3p

Local weekend calls with BT are just 1p a minute. And thanks to the latest price cut on 17th January, national weekend calls are now only 3p a minute (5p minimum charge per call).

BT has also designed a range of discounts to suit the calls you make, giving you extra savings on your local, national and international calls.

If anyone claims they can give you cheaper calls than BT, call 0800 003 800 to check you're getting all your discounts.

See how BT's discounts save you EXTRA money.

DISCOUNT	HOW YOU SAVE	SAVING
Friends & Family 10 Numbers	Save each time to those you call most often.	10%
BestFriend (Savings start 1st May)	Get an extra 10% savings off your top UK Friends & Family number.	20%
PremierLine	Add PremierLine to Friends & Family for 25% off your top 10 numbers (15% savings on mobile calls).	25%
Country Calling Plan 30 Countries	Save even more on international calls when you add BT's Country Calling Plan to the above discounts.	43%

**BT** It's good to talk

Call us NOW on 0800 003 800 and check you're getting all your discounts.

FRIENDS & FAMILY IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH LIGHT USER SCHEME. BESTFRIEND - EXCLUDES MOBILE, PREMIERLINE COSTS 0.99 PER QUARTER. COUNTRY CALLING PLAN COSTS £1 PER COUNTRY PER MONTH. 5 CALLING PLANS TO 30 COUNTRIES AVAILABLE. EXCLUDES BT CHARGE CARD CALLS. MINIMUM CHARGE 5P PER CALL.

# Blair warns off Scots assembly troublemakers

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair signalled a purge of troublemakers from the candidates' list for the Scottish Parliament in a rallying call yesterday to the Labour Party in Perth to fight off the threat of the Scottish National Party.

The Prime Minister told his party he wanted to field the best candidates in the Scottish Parliamentary elections next year, which was seen as a clear warning that those who indulge in in-fighting will not be on the candidates' list.

"This isn't about stopping any particular person - it is about ensuring high quality candidates throughout Scotland. No one has an automatic right to selection. Scotland deserves the best from Labour at local and national level. That is what it will get," he said.

His remarks put question marks over some left-wing MPs who could be possible candidates for the Labour list, including Dennis Canavan, the MP for Falkirk West.

It is unclear how many Scottish Labour MPs will opt for the Scottish Parliament. Donald

Dewar, Secretary of state for Scotland, is expected to run for the post of the first minister of the Scottish Parliament.

Henry McLeish, the Scottish minister responsible for helping to draw up the devolution plans, also announced this week he would be standing for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Blair said the referendum on Scotland showed the settled will of the Scottish people and he described the elections as a "new dawn for Scotland", with a warning to the Tory hereditary peers in the House of Lords not to block the legislation.

The Prime Minister also set out his vision for a second term of office insisting that Labour's aims would only be realised on the rock of a sound economy.

"The rock upon which everything we do is stable prudent management of the economy," he declared.

In a wide-ranging speech, the Prime Minister also defended the proposals to charge students £1,000-a-year to study at university, saying it would release much-needed resources for higher education and lift the cap on student numbers.



Rallying the faithful: Tony Blair addressing delegates to the Scottish Labour Party conference in Perth yesterday

Photograph: Jeff Mitchell/Reuters

## Dixons

### DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONES: HEAR THE AMAZING CALL QUALITY

Now you can enjoy crystal clear reception from anywhere in the home and garden, up to 300 metres from the base station, together with complete security from potential eavesdroppers. You can even make free calls between handsets!

#### GAP COMPATIBLE

Buy any additional handset for those extra rooms in your home and you'll have no problem matching it with ANY of the GAP compatible base stations to make and receive calls - giving you greater choice regardless of make or model!

**BT DIVERSE 1010**  
DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE  
• Up to 360 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.  
• Paging facility between handsets.  
• 10 number memory.  
• GAP compatible.  
Was £158.99.  
SAVE £19. **£139.99**

BT DIVERSE ADDITIONAL HANDSET **£99.99**  
PLUS FREE CHARGER Worth £14.99

**HAGENUK HOMEHANDY**  
DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE  
• Up to 300 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.  
• Call duration monitor on display.  
• 10 number memory.  
• GAP compatible.  
Was £129.99.  
SAVE £10. **£119.99**

Oxford Deal  
HAGENUK HOMEHANDY ADDITIONAL HANDSET **£99.99**

\*Charger available separately.  
Ask in-store for details.

FIRST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

**Dixons**

ON-LINE SHOP: [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk)

## New threat of rebellion over war pensions

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government was facing a fresh welfare rebellion last night after it announced that it was carrying out a threat by the past Tory government to impose a cut in disability war pensions for deaf ex-soldiers.

The veteran welfare campaigner, Lord Ashley, who has had an operation to help him overcome deafness, led the protest at the Government decision to endorse a decision which Labour had vehemently attacked when it was proposed by the Tories.

The cuts, which will be imposed on future claimants for hearing loss disability following a review, will reinforce a protest by disability rights campaigners at a wide range of welfare issues.

Lord Ashley will be one of the key speakers at a mass lobby of Parliament next Tuesday in advance of the Budget to stop means-testing or taxing of disability benefits.

"The Government's statement that they will not harm people who are disabled and in need is not enough to reassure disabled people when it is set against a background of recent benefit cuts which many are experiencing," said a spokesman for the disability benefits consortium.

Threats to benefits the campaigners highlighted include the benefits integrity project under which nearly one in five disabled people who have been assessed have lost or had cuts to their disability living allowance; a leaked memo from the Department of

Tate asks Lords to return its paintings

By David Lister  
Arts News Editor

The Tate Gallery has demanded that the House of Lords return six paintings, loaned by the gallery. The best known of the six is Landseer's *Dialogue At Morteroo* which hangs in the Peers' Guest Room and which was lent as long ago as 1985.

Sandy Nairne, assistant director at the Tate, said the gallery needed its paintings back for the opening at the end of next year of The Tate Gallery of British Art.

The present Millbank site will be devoted to the history of British Art when the modern art collection moves to the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, south-east London. Mr Nairne also said that it was now Tate policy to lead paintings not on display to regional galleries and museums rather than to the House of Lords.

However, he added that the Tate had originally asked for the paintings back this year, but had agreed to a request from the Lords to extend the loan for a further year. Despite the extension, the return of the paintings led to an anxious debate in the House of Lords on Thursday.

Baroness Rawlings urged that the Tate director Nicholas Serota be asked "to reconsider the matter and think of some other paintings to lend to this House".

The chairman of committees, Lord Boston of Faversham, said: "I have no doubt that a way will be found to pass on her wishes, which were echoed around this Chamber ... Mr Nicholas Serota and others ... have been tremendously helpful."

## 'Luckiest' MPs whose seats scoop the lottery millions

By Colin Brown

THE former Tory minister, Peter Brooke, has been officially declared the "luckiest" MP in Britain, because his constituency in the heart of London has won first place in the race for funds from the National Lottery.

London seats scooped the pool of the lottery funds, and a House of Commons library report shows the Tory seat of the Cities of London and Westminster took first place in the rankings, with £346m. The £78m awarded to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in Mr Brooke's seat boosted its funds, as did £50m for the new Tate Gallery building at Bankside.

Other London seats did well

because of the predominance of arts and heritage funding projects in the capital. Holborn and St Pancras, the seat of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, came second for funds from the National Lottery.

London seats scooped the pool of the lottery funds, and a House of Commons library report shows the Tory seat of the Cities of London and Westminster took first place in the rankings, with £346m. The £78m awarded to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in Mr Brooke's seat boosted its funds, as did £50m for the new Tate Gallery building at Bankside.

The survey of all 659 seats is being eagerly studied by MPs.

"The MPs are very keen to see how they are doing. It's the equivalent of a best-seller," an official said.

The free guide lists the other top 10 as: 3. Birmingham Ladywood (Clare Short, overseas development minister) £104m; 4. Manchester Central (Tony Lloyd, foreign minister) £103m; 5. Liverpool Riverside (Louise Ellman, Labour) £56m; 6. Belfast South (Martin Smyth UUP) £59m; 7. Sheffield Central (Dick Caborn, minister for the regions) £58m and Kensington and Chelsea (Alan Clark, TUC) £58m. 9. Islington South and Finsbury (Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture) £56m; 10. Portsmouth South (Mike Hancock, Liberal Democrat) £55m.

# Iraq's weapons not effective, America admits

By Patrick Cockburn  
and Charles Glass

A SENIOR American ambassador in the Middle East is reported to have told American citizens that Iraq's biological and chemical warheads were "very ineffective" just at the moment when the US and Britain were saying they posed a real threat which would justify airstrikes on Iraq.

The Independent has obtained a memo from an American businessman who attended a briefing at the US embassy in Kuwait on February 3 at which Jim Larocco, the ambassador, downplayed the threat from Iraq, although Kuwait City is the only foreign capital close to the Iraqi border.

"Gas masks are not required," the memo reports Mr Larocco to have said. "No one at the American embassy has

**'No one at the US Embassy has gas masks and the embassy does not recommend any'**

gas masks and the American embassy does not recommend any. They are not even interested in finding out a source for gas masks.

The main reasons for this decision are the new interceptor missiles in place in Kuwait and the fact [that] the biological and chemical warheads are very ineffective."

This private advice on the real extent of the danger posed by Iraqi biological and chemical weapons is in sharp contrast with the picture presented by President Clinton and Tony Blair. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, writing in the Independent, said the threat posed by the weapons was "terrifyingly real."

Mr Larocco confirms that he gave several briefings to American citizens in Kuwait in February and told them that Iraqi chemical and biological attack was "an extremely remote possibility."

He said he recommended

that anybody wanting a gas mask get training for it. But he flatly denies saying that Iraqi warheads were ineffective. He says: "I never said anything like that at all. I'm not an expert."

Nevertheless, the memo, drawn up by an experienced American businessman, who does not want to be identified, was written immediately after the briefing. If Mr Larocco and the US State Department believed that Iraqi warheads were effective he is unlikely to have said that American citizens need not acquire gas masks.

But British experts on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction say that Mr Larocco's comments at the briefing are a better analysis of the extent of the Iraqi threat than the far more menacing picture given by President Clinton and Tony Blair.

Mr Blair, citing figures from Porton Down, the government scientific establishment which tests biological and chemical weapons, said that a teaspoon of botulinum toxin could cause seven million deaths and the same amount of anthrax 100 million.

Dr Julian Perry-Robinson, a senior fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit and an expert on Iraqi biological and chemical weapons whose existence he helped establish in 1989, says of Mr Blair's figures: "It is a nonsense comparison. It is like saying 50,000 tons of bullets are enough to kill the entire world. Most larger armies have that number, but it does not mean the earth's population is going to die."

He says the effectiveness of biological and chemical weapons depends on the ability to deliver them and this is very uncertain in Iraq's case. For instance, in the case of anthrax if it is fired in an explosive shell then only a tenth of a per cent of the spores will survive the explosion. The US spent twenty years perfecting a programme to deliver such organisms.

At the core of the search of the UN weapons inspectors is the hunt for information on how far Iraqi scientists had got in perfecting an effective method of delivery through an 'aerosol' device. Dr Perry-Robinson says that Mr Larocco's reported remarks about warheads suggest

## Innocent victims made to suffer for the sins of Saddam

By Robert Fisk  
in Baghdad

THE DISNEY PARK is empty and the government has banned the export of school textbooks – because not a single Iraqi schoolbook has been printed since 1990. Nor has a single school been built anywhere in Iraq since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Lack of funds, is the reason it seems (though not enough to stop Sad-

damning sewage). And who is to blame? Well, once we have gone through the Saddam routine – it is he, we are told, who is really being punished for his wickedness – we find that Iraqi water treatment plants are out being repaired. And why not? Because each individual item of machinery has to be manufactured specifically for the plants.

The idea of Saddam's legions stripping the wood off school pencils to get at the graphite would be funny if the effect of UN sanctions was not so immoral. In the Basra General Hospital, children are suffering from typhoid, almost certainly from drinking water contaminated by sewage.

Technology that was up-to-date in 1990 is now obsolete. It is becoming ever more difficult to obtain spare parts. Iraq used to build its water plants with machinery from Spain, Italy and France. And UN sanctions committee approval is needed for each spare part. So the tap water is polluted.

When I ask a doctor at the Basra General Hospital why there are no children in the Disney Park, he replies: "Because they are all sent out to work by their families." On every street, children sell cigarettes, nuts, matches; or just beg. Others claw through rubbish tips for resalable goods. They are being punished, you see, because of a man called Saddam Hussein.

Readers who wish to help the cancer-stricken children of southern Iraq can send cheques, made out to The Independent Iraq Appeal, to PO Box No 6870, London E4 5BT.

INDEPENDENT  
  
**IRAQ APPEAL**

dam building more palaces). The Internet is a mystery to Iraqi children. New computers are banned under UN sanctions: they may have a dual military purpose. So, it appears, are cotton – because there are no more cotton sheets for hospital wards – and paper, too. Exercise books have run out; in Baghdad, one young mother admitted that she tells her children only to write in pencil, so that she can erase their work and give them back their exercise books to use again. Always

that the US does not really believe Iraq can deliver its biological and chemical weapons. Otherwise it would have made more systematic efforts to protect its civilians in Kuwait.

Ironically, ten years ago at the end of Iraq's war with Iran, and its extermination campaign against the Kurds, Washington was denying that Baghdad was manufacturing biological weapons.

When one plant at Salman Pak, south-east of Baghdad, was identified by ABC News, which had received information from Iraqi defectors, from a satellite photograph it had commissioned, the US State Department refused to credit it.

Innocent victim: Ali Hillal is running out of time. After Allied bombing near his parents' home in the south of Iraq in the last days of January 1991 his mother smelt 'insecticide'. He is not expected to live

Photograph: Robert Fisk



I'm a pickled porcupine,  
I haven't got a bean.  
Valuation fee refunded  
and cashback  
up to £700,  
give me more  
of that fluff.  
Spanner!

GOOD HOMES MAGAZINE

## Completely crazy mortgage deals

from those sensible people at Alliance & Leicester

Up to £700 is just the beginning. Drop by for a quote and you could find yourself in our free prize draw. You may win one of:

- 2 Home Makeovers each worth £15,000
- Interest paid on 5 Mortgages for a year\*
- 500 free annual subscriptions to BBC Good Homes Magazine
- Hurry! The first 10,000 quotes will receive a FREE copy of the premiere issue

Don't believe us? Just ask.

 **ALLIANCE & LEICESTER**

\*Based on an interest only mortgage of £60,000 at our basic variable rate, currently 8.70% (9.15% APR) as at 27 February 1998. The maximum value is £5,220 and it is not subject to rate change. To qualify you must be an existing mortgage customer of Alliance & Leicester plc or receive a mortgage offer by 31st August 1998. Mortgages are only available to new customers or existing borrowers moving home. Your home is security for the loan and must be adequately insured. Loans are subject to status and valuation and are only available to people aged 18 or over. Written quotations available on request. Cashbacks are payable on completion of your mortgage. Where applicable, the valuation refund is limited to the value of our Option 1 Valuation and is payable on completion of your mortgage. To qualify for a valuation refund, Alliance & Leicester plc must receive a valid valuation (procedures differ in Scotland). The valuation refund cannot be used in conjunction with any other valuation refund offers. Customers choosing a mortgage which contains an element of cashback will be eligible for an additional £250 cashback. Full details about our range of mortgages, any conditions mentioned above and any conditions/restrictions which apply are available at your local branch. For security and training purposes, telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester plc or its subsidiaries may be recorded and monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc, Corporate Service Centre, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU9 5XG. Alliance & Leicester Marketing Group, consisting of Alliance & Leicester plc, Alliance & Leicester Life Assurance Company Limited, which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, and Alliance & Leicester Unit Trust Managers Limited, which are regulated by MIRO, only sells its own life assurance, pensions, Unit Trust and PEP products. Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1V 4EQ. Company No: 5263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Banks Association. February 1998.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

# Serbs cut off killing fields of Kosovo

By Andrew Gumbel  
in Pristina

Serbian authorities imposed a security cordon yesterday where their special police forces have been attacking Albanian villages in Kosovo, blocking roads and intimidating or roughing up journalists and Western officials who tried to get through.

Albanian sources said fighting was continuing in at least one of the villages in the Drenica region, Prekaz, where houses were set on fire by Serb mortars, and that others were still under siege. The official death-toll from Thursday's fighting was 22, including two policemen, although Serbian police put the number at 30. Albanian leaders said as many as 50 had been killed.

One of the dead was named as Adem Jashari, said by the Serbs to be a commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for attacks on policemen and "collaborators". The Jashari family is well known for its opposition to Serb rule in Kosovo, though Albanian officials said there was no evidence he had been involved in armed combat. Details

## Balkan powderkeg

Kosovo has a population of about 2 million, 90 per cent of whom are Albanian. The region was the heart of the medieval Serbian state. The battle of Kosovo of 1389, where the Ottomans defeated the Serbs, marked the end of Serbia's independence and the start of four centuries of Turkish rule. Kosovo was recaptured by Serbia in 1912, but by then, Serbs were only a small minority of the population. Granted autonomy in 1945, the present Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic rose to power in 1987 on promises to re-Serbianise the region and quash independence movements among the Albanians.



based not on the desire to flush out terrorists but rather a crude desire for bloodshed.

After Thursday's apparently fruitless meeting in Belgrade between Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, Western diplomats continued efforts to calm the situation in Kosovo and persuade the two sides to initiate dialogue about greater autonomy for the Albanian majority in the province.

Ambassadors from five of the six Contact Group countries (Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the US and Russia) travelled to the Kosovo capital, Pristina, for talks with the self-styled Kosovo president, Ibrahim Rugova, and Serbian officials. The Russian ambassador sent a deputy in his place.

The Italian religious community that successfully brokered an education accord between Serbs and Albanians 18 months ago also sent out a mediator, Mgr Vincenzo Paglia, to talk to the two sides and persuade them to work out the details of the accord together so that it could be implemented.

The Serbs appeared to have softened their line yesterday, saying they were willing to talk about autonomy issues that stopped short of outright independence for the Albanians. Kosovo Albanian intellectuals suspected this was part of a strategy to pull a diplomatic trick, alienating the Albanians through massive use of force, offering to sit down at a negotiating table confident the Albanians will refuse, and then being able to turn round and claim they are the intransigent ones, not the Serbs.

were sketchy and claims by both sides almost impossible to verify. The Serbs claimed to have discovered underground arms caches and secret military hospitals, while the Albanians claimed to have captured two armoured troop carriers.

Witnesses who passed information out of the Drenica area said women and children were trying to flee by road, while menfolk headed into the woods. They spoke of killings by police,



An Albanian refugee from Prekaz with her baby in a field near the embattled village. Houses in the area were set on fire by Serb mortars and estimates of the death-toll from the clashes ranged from 22 to 50

Photograph: Reuters

**"Plant these B&Q bulbs now for a beautiful Summer display."**

ANN NEEDHAM,  
Sales Assistant  
B&Q FAREHAM



**Begonia Cascade Hanging Basket**  
Includes 14ins hanging basket with water reservoir, 5 cascade begonias mixed, basket liner and compost.

**£6.99**

**£4.99**

**Basket & Balcony Begonias**  
Available in various colours.  
Pack of 3 bulbs.

**£2.49**

**Summer Flowering Bulb Cauldron Kit**  
Includes 5 Zephyranthes, 5 Iris mixed, 5 Lirios Spicata, 5 Oxalis Daffodil bulbs and compost.

**£6.99**



**£4.99**

**Summer Flowering Bulb Pot Kit**

# Aids drug price cut for Third World

By Jeremy Laurance in London  
and Mary Braid in Johannesburg

The price of the Aids drug, AZT, is to be cut by up to three quarters to help prevent mother-child transmission of the disease in the developing world. Glaxo Wellcome, the multinational drug company, announced the price cut after a trial in Thailand run by the US Centre for Disease Control showed that a short course of the oral drug in the last three to four weeks of pregnancy and during labour reduced the transmission rate by 51 per cent.

A spokesman for the company said the exact price would vary from country to country according to the length of treatment regimen agreed and the support networks available to ensure effective use of the drug, whose brand name is Retrovir. He said the company would still make profit at the reduced price but part of this would be ploughed back into "programme support", including distribution and patient education.

Nine out of 10 people living with HIV and Aids are in developing countries and women are often unaware that they are infected. Most do not attend ante-natal clinics until late in pregnancy and may only discover they are infected at that stage.

The announcement was warmly received in South Africa. "It is absolutely amazing," said Glenda Gray, director of perinatal HIV research at the Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto yesterday. "For the first time in years we are seeing lights at the end of the tunnel. Glaxo's decision has put AZT within the reach of South African women."

Some sound a cautious note. Dr James McIntyre, co-director of the research team, is worried by the vagueness of Glaxo's proposal. A Health Department spokesman was rather guarded. Two years ago Dr Zuma met Glaxo executives to discuss purchasing AZT at a reduced price. The health spokesman said the questions the health minister posed then remain unanswered: Just how cheaply does the company intend to sell AZT and for how long will it keep the price at that level?

South Africa has one of the fastest-growing HIV infection rates in the continent blighted by the virus. Roughly 30 per cent of children under

der five referred to Bangwanele, just outside Johannesburg, test positive. In KwaZulu-Natal, 25 per cent of all new born babies have the virus. KwaZulu is the hardest-struck province but the rest of the country is only a few years behind. Social factors smoothed the viruses passage.

Migrant-labour practices keep men from their families for months on end and on a continent where women have few if any choices, prostitution is rife and condom use practically non-existent. KwaZulu's predicament is partly blamed on truck routes that pass down the province, bringing the virus from neighbouring countries further north. At truck stops along the way, prostitutes cost less than breakfast.

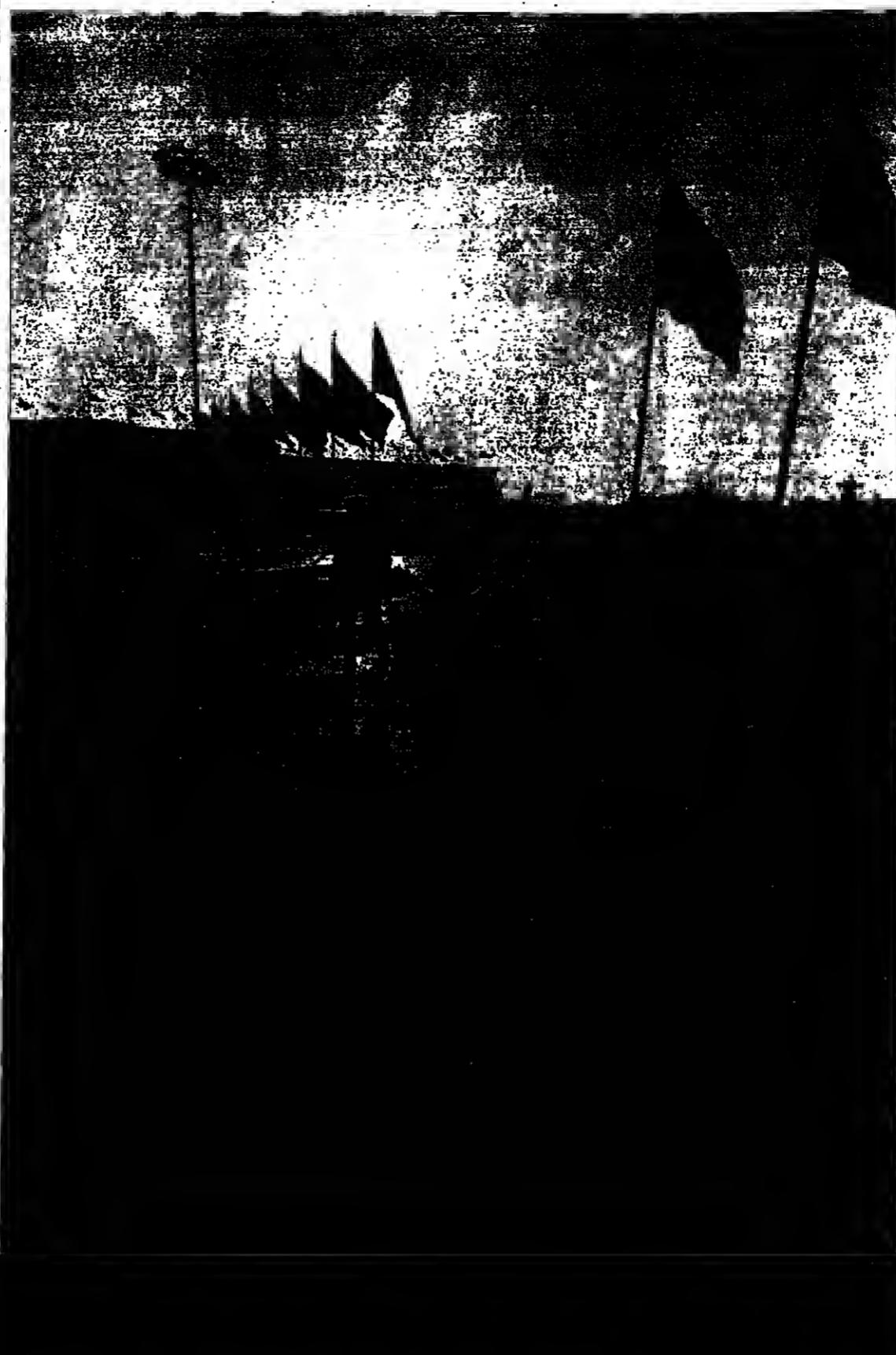
The virus has crept up on South Africa's first democratic government and administration which had so many other post-apartheid problems to tackle. That health minister Nkosazana Zuma is desperate for a cut-price solution to the Aids epidemic is evident from the government's continued support for the home-grown drug Virodene.

Though the Virodene researchers broke all the rules in administering the drug to Aids patients before it had been scientifically tested Dr Zuma continues to champion their cause. Her enthusiasm has not been dampened by the banning of the drug which contains industrial solvent.

The government's desperation is matched by patients. Yesterday there were newspaper reports that Virodene, despite the ban, is still in circulation and there is no shortage of Aids sufferers willing to use it.

Some sound a cautious note. Dr James McIntyre, co-director of the research team, is worried by the vagueness of Glaxo's proposal. A Health Department spokesman was rather guarded. Two years ago Dr Zuma met Glaxo executives to discuss purchasing AZT at a reduced price. The health spokesman said the questions the health minister posed then remain unanswered: Just how cheaply does the company intend to sell AZT and for how long will it keep the price at that level?

## Cadres fall victim to bureaucratic revolution



Security checks: Two policemen patrolling Tiananmen Square in Peking early yesterday before the start of the second session of the Chinese National People's Congress which is being held nearby. Photograph AP

China is to slash its bloated civil service in the biggest government reshuffle since 1949, writes Teresa Poole in Peking

ALMOST 50 years ago, a vicious Communist Party took control of China and resolved to eliminate the landlord class. Yesterday, party leaders proclaimed a new "revolution", this one aimed at the millions of idle, tea-swilling, newspaper-reading civil servants whose dedication to red-tape is matched only by their ingenuity at banqueting on government funds.

In a move to strike fear in the hearts of card-carrying cadres, the number of civil servants on the books of the central government ministries is to be halved by the end of this year. That is only a start. By the end of next year, provincial and lower-level local governments must come up with re-organisation plans that will mean millions more cadres stepping out into the real world.

Businesses and enterprises will be hived off from government departments, and state subsidies to non-administrative units will be phased out over three years.

The biggest risk is what to do with the cadres, or the "treasures of the state", as Mr Luo called them. He said the "re-

**'Too many people are doing too little work, causing red tape and helping corruption'**

Luo Gan, a member of the State Council (China's Cabinet), admitted as much yesterday when he announced the biggest reorganisation of government since 1949.

"There is a serious problem of too many people doing too little work, causing red tape and bureaucracy, and at the same time helping corruption, embezzlement and bad social tendencies grow," he said.

Central and local government budgets had almost become "rice-eating budgets", he told this year's National People's Congress.

Mr Luo gave no numbers, but the Chinese media said the number of civil servants would be cut from 8 million to 4 million. The size of government was "too heavy and too complicated", said Mr Luo.

The first stage of reorganisation will sort out the departments under the State Council. Some 15 ministries and com-

duction of government size and fixing of staff" would be completed by the end of this year, but it would take three years "to channel" cadres into re-training schemes and new roles.

He stressed that the unwanted cadres would keep their salaries during the three-year "channelling" period, and after training they would be able to play a full role in various sectors including banking, commerce and taxation departments.

However, with unemployment already soaring because of lay-offs among state enterprise workers, many of the civil servants must know that the gravy train is finally heading into the sidings.

## Save over £170

It pays to transfer your balance to our new credit card



11.9% APR  
for balance transfers

15.9% APR  
for purchases

You can save money with the new Scottish Widows Credit Card.

Transfer an existing balance for just 11.9% APR and you could save over £170 in the first year, as shown below. And when you use your card for purchases you'll enjoy a competitive 15.9% APR. What's more, we promise that our interest rates will stay consistently competitive.

But that's not all...

You'll never be charged an annual fee.

And there's no interest charge for up to 56 days, if you clear your balance in full every month.

You'll also enjoy a range of features which makes your card even better value. 90 Day Purchase Protection, for example, travel accident insurance and a cheque book which draws on your account.

For your application pack and full details, please complete the coupon or call 0800 783 14 14.

The new Scottish Widows Credit Card. It's a permanently good idea.

Please send me more information about the Scottish Widows Credit Card. Return to: FREEPOST SEA3002, Mitre House, Kingston KT2 6BR. BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone (Home/Work)

SCOTTISH WIDOWS  
Call now for more information  
**0800 783 14 14**  
Quote Ref WP04

\*The savings calculated assume the Cardholder transfers a balance of £2,000 within the first year of the opening of the Card Account, and maintains this balance for twelve months. The savings calculated are based on the annual fee which applies to the current rates of interest and fees charged on the twelve-month period. APRs include annual fees where applicable. The savings are based on the Scottish Widows MasterCard APR for balances transferred which is 11.9% for balances transferred from another card and 15.9% for purchases made during the twelve-month period. All other named cards feature their standard interest rates and exclude any short-term special offers. The Cardholder is required to make monthly payments within 25 days of the due date at least 5% of the outstanding balance specified on the statement, or 15 whichever is greater, or the full amount if less than £5. Current interest rates at 30.11.96. Written quotations available on request. Subject to status. Unavailable to persons under 18 years of age. APRs variable. RBS Scottish Widows Cards Ltd, Registered Office: 2 St Andrews Square, E14 2YE. Registered in Scotland no. 164085.

**STAPLES**  
The Office Superstore

**HOT PRICE!**

**4 MACHINES IN ONE**

**HEWLETT PACKARD**  
MODEL NO. NP590 SKU 265769

**STAPLES PRICE**  
**£339.99** INC. VAT

**1. COLOUR PRINTER**  
600 x 300dpi colour,  
600 x 600dpi mono

**2. FAX**  
Plain paper  
85 page memory

**3. COPIER**  
Digital zoom from 50%  
to 200%

**4. SCANNER**  
600 dpi enhanced  
INCLUDES BLACK &  
COLOUR CARTRIDGES

**STAPLES Copy Centre**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
8AM - 8PM

**SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM**  
(open 6 hours, unless very busy)

**SUNDAY**  
(open 6 hours, unless very busy)

**150% ULTIMATE PRICE PROTECTION**

Subject to terms and conditions.  
Offer ends 31st March 1998. The difference from £339.99 is reduced now or within 30 days of your purchase. Call or visit our website for full terms & conditions.

**41 SUPERSTORES NATIONWIDE**

**FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE**

**FREEFONE**  
**0800 141 414**

\*Call for details. All prices subject to availability.

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

Call now for more information  
**0800 783 14 14**  
Quote Ref WP04

# Russian Jews threaten action over race attack

By Phil Reeves  
in Moscow

IMAGINE outrage had it happened, say, in Western Europe: the head of a territory about the size of Scotland, with three international airports and a capital bigger than Liverpool, is addressing local youngsters.

Far from giving harmless career advice, he launches into a diatribe in which he makes 61 brazenly anti-Semitic remarks. He talks of "yids" and "cosmopolitans", the Stalinist slur against Jews. He accuses Jews of inventing homosexuality, of starting the Chechen war, and of plotting to destroy Russia, his country. "They have penetrated the Russian family," he raves. "A Jewish girl would seduce a Russian boy so that the children would belong to them". Anti-Semitism is depressingly common in Russia, but this was of a different order.

The speaker, Nikolai Kondratenko, was no lesser figure than governor of Krasnodar, one of Russia's top 10 best-performing regions. Five million people live under his rule on a sweep of farmland on the north-eastern edge of the Black Sea. He is closely allied to the Communists and nationalists who dominate the Russian parliament under Gennady Zyuganov. And he is an out-and-out racist.

Such was the outrage among Russia's Jews when his speech was reported on the front page

of *Izvestia* on Wednesday that top Jewish organisations are now considering taking the governor to court, using a clause in the new Criminal Code that outlaws inciting racial hatred.

If they go ahead, it will be a landmark, a measure of the distance Russian Jews have come since the Communist years which brought Stalin's purges, religious persecution, official discrimination, and finally, as the system fell apart, mass emigration.

No leading official has ever



Gennady Zyuganov: An ally of the racist governor

been sued for anti-Semitic conduct in Boris Yeltsin's Russia. "The Communist Party is still the umbrella for these kind of guys," said Dr Michael Chlenov, head of the Jewish Federation of Russia.

When the article appeared he was inundated with angry phone calls; he is now awaiting a transcript which will be used

to determine whether to resort to the courts.

For Russia's 1 million Jews, the governor's speech was a nasty backward glimpse after a decade which has seen their fortunes rise. Moscow now has seven Jewish schools, and four higher education institutions. There are Sunday schools, kindergartens and more than 20 welfare organisations. "Ten years ago there was simply nothing, apart from semi-legal circles of refuseniks," said Dr Chlenov.

Religious traditions have begun to blossom anew. So, too, has culture. In January, *The Diary of Anne Frank* was performed in Moscow for the first time since the Khrushchev thaw. It was part of a festival held in memory of the renowned Jewish actor and theatre director, Solomon Mikhoels, who was murdered by Stalin's secret police.

Since his election in 1996, Mr Kondratenko – backed by Cossacks and nationalists – has adopted a charter declaring his region a "place of residence of Russian people". The human rights group Memorial has warned official racism could lead to "catastrophic consequences". The US-based Centre for Human Rights Advocacy claims he has a force of 300,000 Cossack troops which set up road blocks and raid homes and markets in a reign of terror aimed at driving out non-ethnic Russians.



Flashback: The discovery of the body of Aldo Moro, the former Italian prime minister killed by the Red Brigades in 1978. He was one of many victims of the turmoil gripping Italy at the time and which also included Dario Fo and his wife, Franca Rame (below). Photograph: Rex Features

## Dario Fo looks back in anger on era when Italy's rulers had his wife beaten and raped

IT TOOK nearly five years for Franca Rame – the Italian actress and wife of the playwright Dario Fo – to start talking about the day in 1973 when she was snatched by neo-fascists in broad daylight and gang-raped in the streets of Milan.

And it has taken 25 years for the horrific reasons behind the attack to come to public attention. An investigating magistrate still working on the terrorist outrages of the period has just revealed that the Fos suspected all along: the gang-rape was carried out on the orders of senior police officers infuriated by the couple's constant dig at the establishment, on stage and off.

The full story may not end there. New testimony suggests

the commander of the Carabinieri's Pastrengo division in Milan was taking orders from the upper echelons of government, the idea being to deliver a blow against a left-wing movement that was organising protests against the ruling Christian Democrats almost daily.

"I remember the day [of

the rape] very well. The commander was constipated," a captain in the Pastrengo division at the time, Niccolò Bozzo, said. "The news that Franca Rame had been raped was received as

though someone had done the division a great favour."

Similar testimony has come

from a number of former neofascists, who say they frequently joined forces with the Pastrengo division's commander, Giovanni Battista Palumbo, to beat off what they saw as Italy's Communist menace. The neofascists did the Carabinieri's dirty work and were guaranteed a blind eye to their activities. A former neo-fascist since caught up in drugs rackets, Biagio Pitarasi, says he was approached about carrying out the rape but turned it down.

In the early 1970s Milan

and indeed the whole country

appeared to be on the brink of civil war. Barely a day went by without bombs, or street fights between left-wingers and neofascists. A rigid terrorist campaign was in full flight, and the far-left Red Brigades were beginning their remorselessly violent backlash.

The left suspected – with justification, it turned out – that the

government, backed by the CIA, was prepared to use any means to prevent the Communist Party from reaching power and had given tacit approval to terrorist outrages such as the bombing of a bank in Milan's Piazza Fontana in 1969 as an excuse to swoop on left-wing activists and toss them in jail.

Since the police and army

had never been properly purged

after the Fascist period, it was

easy to find commanders in the security forces willing to bend the rules in the name of Cold War ideology. For many law

officers, beating and torturing

left-wingers was a pleasure.

The Fos were actively engaged in lampooning the political corruption and police brutality of the time. Plays by Fo like *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (about the "suicide" of a suspect in the Piazza Fontana bombing while in police custody) so incensed the establishment that theatres daring to show them routinely had their licences withdrawn.

Rame organised a volunteer group which sent packages of food and clothing to left-wingers in custody and provided defence lawyers for suspects.

So reviled by polite society

were the Fos that they could not

find a landlord in Milan willing

to rent them an apartment.

Their phones were tapped and

their house bugged. Fo was arrested in Sardinia once and held for 19 hours but otherwise stayed out of trouble.

Until the day in March 1973

when Franca Rame had a pistol

shoved into the back of her neck, was bundled into a military truck, beaten, cut with razor blades, burned with cigarette butts and gang-raped.

"I'm not sure how many they

were, though they must have

been at least five, one at the

wheel, one holding me down

and the other three on top of

me," she told *La Repubblica* recently in what she vowed would be her last public telling of the affair. "When they threw me out near the park, my clothes were

ripped and I was bleeding everywhere... They told me: 'If you talk, we'll kill you'."

Rame was so traumatised about the attack to anyone about it for years. In 1975 she managed to tell her husband about the attack, but only on paper, not verbally. Three years later she surprised everyone – including herself – by describing it all in minute detail during a one-woman show in Lucca. It was so powerful that several young women fainted and Rame herself was taken ill.

Once the Cold War ended, the old Christian Democrat order collapsed and the major figures implicated in the gang-rape were dead or politically finished. (Gen Palumbo died in 1984), it became easier to discern the chain of responsibility.

Judge Salvini's most recent discoveries have prompted Dario Fo, basking in the prestige of his recent Nobel Prize for Literature, to write to the President demanding justice, even at this late stage. "How is it possible that nobody wanted to investigate until the statute of limitations for these crimes had expired?" he wrote.

Establishing the truth was not a matter of revenge, he added, but an essential tool to allow Italians to recognise the barbarities of the past and move on. "Otherwise the guilty will feel that this country's institutions and you first of all, Mr President, are there to protect 'them', not the rest of us who have undergone things that no human being should have to endure."

## Belgians hold 8 Algerians in crackdown on terror groups

By Katherine Butler  
in Brussels

ARMED Islamic extremists are using Belgium as their main logistical back up station for terrorist activities in Algeria, state security sources in Brussels admitted yesterday.

Police carried out further raids on houses in the capital and in Verviers in southern Belgium following a siege on Thursday which ended in the arrest of eight Algerians believed to be leading members of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group. The swoop was the culmination of months of surveil-

lance and followed intelligence from British police and immigration authorities.

Belgium's interior minister, Johan Vande Lanotte, hailed the arrests as a breakthrough in efforts to combat Algerian terrorism. But Belgian security service sources, quoted in yesterday's newspapers, said the country is being used as an important "support network".

As well as a clearing house for weapons, Belgium is thought to be a key point for the manufacture of fake identity papers, money laundering and fundraising. French officials believe these clandestine networks were

**Southampton  
to  
Zurich...**

...as the cuckoo flies.

### A new direct service to Zurich, daily.

There's never been a better time to travel from the South of England to Zurich, because from the end of March there will be a new direct flight from Southampton on our new two-class jet. And the service is available every day, as regular as clockwork!

For further details, please contact your local travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop or call British Airways anytime on 0345 222111.

Service operated by the independent carrier British Regional Airlines Ltd.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**  
The world's favourite airline

[www.british-airways.com](http://www.british-airways.com)

### SPECIAL OFFER EASTER IN HOLLAND SAVE £600 PER PERSON

A SEVEN NIGHT JOURNEY ALONG THE DUTCH WATERWAYS AND THROUGH THE BULBFIELDS ABOARD THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND

11th to 18th April 1998



room affords panoramic views and excellent cuisine. The sun and observation deck offers a glassed-in area as well as open spaces. The well designed cabins all have private shower and toilet as well as colour television, direct dial telephone, large picture windows and individually controlled air-conditioning.

Prices Per Person  
in twin bedded cabin range from £635 (usually £1,235) and from £195 (usually £1,440) for sole occupancy of a double cabin.

Price includes: Economy class return air travel, 7 nights aboard the Queen of Holland on full board, meals ashore as described, shore excursions, entrance fees, local guides, transfers, Cruise Director, UK departure tax. Not included: Travel insurance, airport tax, gratuities.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
Telephone 0171-409 0376  
(7 days a week during office hours)  
Brochureline 0171-355 1424 (24 hours)

**NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED**

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE  
TEL: 0171-409 0376/0385 1424 FAX: 0171-409 0834  
ABTA E-MAIL: [noble@california.co.uk](mailto:noble@california.co.uk) ABTA  
STOB WEBSITE: [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk) V321X

# What's Harry's game?

One of the most famous journalists in the world claims he has been libelled by a humble hack. Ann Treneman says the great man should lighten up

TO SAY that Harry Evans is highly respected among British hacks is not true. Nor would it be accurate to say that the man who edited the *Sunday Times* in the Seventies is seen as merely brilliant. He is, quite simply, an icon. And the great thing about being an icon is that your status is pretty secure.

Never mind that, in New York, the great man has to live in the shadow of his magazine editor whizz of a wife. In London, he can escape from all that Mr Tina Brown stuff. When he arrives here in newspaper offices (as icons sometimes do) editors have been known to bow. "There goes the best editor this paper never had," they say as he sweeps out.

The thing about being an icon, though, is that you must act like one. Harry Evans used to be good at this. Notice the use of the past tense, for it seems that the great defender of liberal causes has lost the script. He has become that saddest of things: a journalist who thinks he has been libelled and who thinks that the answer to criticism is to gag. Is this any way for a defender of free speech to behave?

Even worse, the man who has driven Harry to this is hardly a giant on the international stage. He is freelance writer Toby Young, known in Britain for founding the *Modern Review* with Julie Burchill and, when it all went sour, for hating her publicly. But he barely registered on the Manhattan media circuit. Until now.

Last November he wrote a relatively small article in the relatively small circulation *Spectator*, entitled "Harry in a Spin". In it he claimed that Harry had been pushed out of his New York job as head of Random House publishing and speculated as to whether Queen Thia might lose her crown as well. She might have made a success



out of *Vanity Fair*, but she had not repeated her magic on the august *New Yorker*. After five years the magazine was still not in profit and the rumour mill was working overtime. None of this makes for pleasant reading – and it may be untrue – but, as these things go, it's hardly even spiteful.

Weeks went by and things continued as they should in the court of Harry and Tina. Then, in January, a small gossip item appeared in a New York paper saying that Toby Young was writing a satirical play – called *Liberté, Egalité, Publicité* – set in New York's medioland.

Its central characters were not wholly unrelated to Harry and Tina.

The next day the *Spectator* received a letter demanding a retraction of the November article. "Toby Young seems to be making a cottage industry out of denigrating me," wrote Evans. "I have ignored this campaign to date, but the article you publish is such an escalation, so malicious, so untrue, that I cannot let it go."

Not surprisingly, all of New York was suddenly interested in reading this terrible article. The *Spectator* and Mr Young

were the talk of the town. But Mr Evans doesn't stop there. When the *Spectator* refused to act, his lawyers wrote directly to Toby Young demanding that he apologise, pay legal fees and "desist forthwith from further defaming, denigrating and ridiculing Mr Evans and his wife". Was Harry trying to stop the play?

He says not. But he does call Toby Young a "journalistic stalker". "He is obsessed with me and my wife. I hope this doesn't sound too pompous but I care about standards in journalism." This is sick-bag stuff. What makes it worse is

that the words "standards in journalism" are something that Harry did know a huge amount about. He is the man, after all, who fought the Thalidomide campaign and countless others. Now, it seems, he is his own campaign.

I can't imagine that he expected Toby Young to apologise, and he certainly hasn't. "Harry has started to believe his own publicity. He acts like a minor member of the Royal Family. I am not one of his New York sycophants. I am not afraid to criticise him." And, perhaps most wounding of all: "Harry and Tina are behaving

like a couple of Scientologists."

Two things occur. One is that Harry has become truly American and, lost his sense of humour. He definitely used to have one. In the (now infamous) *Spectator* article, Toby

Young notes that Harry Evans

has said that he often feels

like the husband in the *New*

*Yorker* cartoon whose wife whisked

to him at a cocktail party:

"Tell him who you were,

Henry. Tell him who you were."

It's a good joke to tell against

yourself, but perhaps Harry

no longer can see the point of

such things.

The other thing to note is

that Harry has simply not done his homework. After all, Toby Young does his best fighting in print. Earlier this year, Julie Burchill, in her autobiography, accused him of being "bald, bilious and paying for sex".

He responded in kind in a review: "Reading this gibberish, I am reminded of the late-period Elvis Presley. Just as Elvis was washed up at 40, Julie is burnt out at 38."

"Like Elvis in his rhinestone-encrusted, splitting-at-the-seams, white suit phase, she has become a grotesque parody of her former self, overweight and out of touch. Elvis

was found dead of a drug overdose on his bathroom floor at the age of 42. I wonder if Julie will last that long."

Give it up, Harry! You simply aren't up to this level of vitriol. And if you won't take my word for it, listen to yourself earlier this week. "Toby Young has played this one brilliantly,"

you told a journalist. "He has generated a lot of publicity for himself and his play."

True but not entirely accurate; for it was Harry Evans – and not Toby Young – who generated all that publicity. It's the kind of thing an icon should know.

## The instant family that fell apart

Adopting children with deep emotional scars can lead to serious problems in adolescence. Michael Delahaye reports

ANNE AND JOHN EASSON are both teachers – and that's significant. Eleven years ago, when they adopted an "instant family" of three sisters, aged two, three and five, their professional experience must have counted greatly with the adoption panel.

Today the Eassons' large Victorian house in Feltham, West London, is a "war zone" – John's words – and bears all the marks of combat. He points to the heavy pine door leading into the living-room: "One of the girls was threatening the youngest and, when she took refuge behind the door here, she pulled the door off its hinges... straight out of the door-post." On several occasions the police have been called in.

Upstairs on the landing, John produces a bunch of keys. They are all for internal doors – one for the parents' bedroom and one each for the girls' bedrooms. Each of them (Samira, now aged 16, Disha, 14, and Shirin, 10) has her own key, to stop them stealing from each other and sparking off more rows, more broken glass, more kicked-in-door panels.

John and Anne no longer have a social life. They say they can't leave the girls alone for fear of the consequences. As for family visits to friends and relatives, Anne says it's just too embarrassing: "If you go to other houses and there's cash sitting there, you have to say, 'Please move it.'"

The Eassons' problems are clearly not normal. But nor are they unique, the common key is adoption and what happened in the Seventies and Eighties when the practice started of placing older, often emotionally-prised children with new parents. It was done for the best of motives: to give every child, no matter what his or her "history", the chance of a new beginning with



Anne and John Eason with their daughters shortly after adoption (left) and the girls as they are today

a new family. It was – and still is – carried out with almost evangelical zeal.

But such children, it is only now emerging, often have what are known as "attachment" problems. Because they fail to bond with their birth parents (often due to neglect or abuse), they never create the vital internal model on which to base future relationships. Once they are in care, this deficiency may be compounded by the experience of being moved from one residential home or foster parent to another.

The result is a form of survival mechanism they trust no-one and try to control everything and everybody. Lying, stealing and hysterical anger are part of the package. And, instead of growing out of such behaviour, they more often grow into it.

"The damage and disturbance caused by those first few years," says David Howe, Professor of Social Work at the University of East Anglia, "can ricochet throughout the rest of your life. Even though family life is wonderful, positive and warm, you don't recover totally." Professor Howe, the author of Patterns of Adoption, estimates that several thousand families in Britain could be facing problems similar to the Eassons'. He compares what is now emerging

to other social phenomena that were once dismissed as isolated aberrations: "It's like dyslexia and domestic violence. Twenty or 30 years ago, people had their suspicions but the scale of it was unknown."

The failure to recognise a common cause can mean that the adoptive parents continue to struggle on in ignorance and frustration, blaming themselves. They feel a particular sense of failure because, after all, they were thoroughly vetted before being allowed to adopt. The cruellest twist is the advice frequently given at the time of adoption: "a loving and stable home will compensate for the rocky start in life."

Traumatised children can often traumatisate an entire family. One mother who was finally forced to throw out her adopted son described her family's experience: "as if a hand-grenade had been tossed into our midst. Even now, four years since he left, we're still picking out bits of emotional shrapnel." Her marriage – as frequently happens – buckled under the strain.

The difficulty that these families face is that attachment problems, in their full-blown form, often emerge only when the children hit adolescence – which can be five or even 10 years after adoption. By then, the local

authority which placed the child will, understandably, feel that its obligation to provide post-adoption support has long passed. John recalls that, when they were vetted as an adoptive couple, he and Anne were asked whether they were the sort of people who would ask for help if they hit problems. But when you do ask, he says, "The instant reaction is: 'well, you must have done something to have caused this; you're the cause of the problem.' And in that situation where you're already down and depressed and feeling defeated, that's the last thing you need."

But the saddest casualties are the children themselves. An insight into the depth of their emotional confusion comes from the Eassons' middle daughter, Disha. After several periods of exclusion from school, she is now splitting her time between school and a special adolescent unit for "behavioural modification". Asked what she wanted to say to her parents, she replied: "I don't mean to be angry with them. They've not done anything wrong. They didn't have to adopt us – and I do love them for adopting us and caring for us."

Michael Delahaye reports for BBC2's First Sight, 7.30pm, 12 March.

## If you're not past your sell-by date, maybe you're entering the Fourth Age

ALL would live long but none would be old said Benjamin Franklin in 1741. As the 20th Century draws to a close, life expectancy has certainly increased, but no-one likes to think of themselves as old.

And how old is old these days? Is a 45-year-old woman "past her sell-by date" as the Pennell Initiative, a pressure group set up to help older women, yesterday accused doctors of thinking? If so, how do you account for Elizabeth Butler, who recently gave birth aged 60? When should a man retire? Warren Beatty and Robert Redford have hung on to their heart-throb status, despite being over 60. Does active life end at 65? John Glenn certainly doesn't think so. He plans to orbit the earth in October – at the age of 77. Society is marching forward, extending the age at which we do things.

This week the Debate of the Age was launched, with a commitment to ask 30 million people how they feel society should be managed in future with substantially fewer young people and substantially more older ones. The organisers of the debate have set it up knowing that demographic change in the next century is such that we have to revise all our perceptions of what we do.

Had you been born in 1841, you could expect to live to 40 if you were a man, and 42 if you were a woman, so even '99 would have seemed old. By 1950, this had risen to 66 years and 71.5 years respectively. Male babies born in 1993 can look forward to 73.8 years of life and females 79.1.

Longevity has much to do with the fact that we are all healthier – but some are healthier than others. "The difference is in socio-economic class," says David James, professor of foeto-maternal medicine at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. "You can have a 40-year-old who acts 60 and vice versa, but it depends on socio-economic background – if you're well off you're better nourished, healthier and less likely to smoke."

Many women, like the actress Patricia Hodge, are waiting until their forties before starting a family, despite the conventional "older mothers" being defined as a sprightly 35-plus. One of the biggest tolls on women's health, frequent childbearing, has almost ceased, thanks to the Pill and the decision to have children later.

"The menopause is simply a phenomenon of this century," adds Professor James. "Women simply didn't live long enough to go through it 100 years ago."

But Dr Kevin Morgan, senior lecturer in gerontology at the University of Sheffield, argues that cultural changes have been just as important as biological ones. The difference is in what we do.

GLENDA COOPER

not what we are. "In the past we used to measure age by whether we were too old or too young to do things. It was a social construct, but an elastic measurement."

"There are so many positive role models of empowerment – such as John Glenn or Barbara Castle – that people feel there aren't just obligations but options."

Simon Knighton, director of the Debate of the Age, says: "Our attitudes need to change. There are going to be more old people and there are going to be more opportunities. The end of life debate is going to be as important as the pro-life debates of the 1960s and 1970s."

"We used to talk about the Third Age. Now we are thinking about the Fourth Age. To say what is old age is a meaningless statement." Or as the American statesman Bernard Baruch put it: Old age is always 15 years older than you are.

# The Capeman crashes

It had a charismatic star, innovative sets and a big-name composer. But there was plenty wrong with Paul Simon's first Broadway musical, says Phil Johnson

AFTER a short but stormy flight full of turbulence, the Capeman's wings will flap no more. It has been announced that Paul Simon's Broadway musical is to close on 28 March after a run of just two months and 68 post-preview performances. Despite opening only at the end of January, the show - which cost £6.8m to present - is already on its fourth director.

Savaged by the critics, targeted by Victims' Rights campaigners angry at what they saw as the martyr status Simon gave to the show's murderer-hero (the real-life figure of Salvador Agron, who died shortly after his release from prison in 1979), and struggling against severe internal problems, *The Capeman* was not, in truth, expected to enjoy a long life. Simon, who wrote both book, lyrics and music (with Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walcott getting a co-credit for the first two) has been quoted as saying: "What I enjoyed most about the experience, apart from the creative process itself, was the intensity with which the Latino audience responded to the play."

There is, however, a strong element of hubris involved. Simon brought his show straight into Broadway and suffered the consequences of trying to get it right first time in a milieu where shortcomings simply aren't tolerated. The role of Walcott - who has 40 years' experience with the Trinidad Theatre Workshop - was also unclear. *The Capeman*, it is safe to say, was Simon's baby and he must take the blame for the failure.

But was it any good? Well, yes and no, but mainly no. When I saw the show in preview at the beginning of January, paying my \$67 for a seat in the stalls, it was evident that there was an awful lot wrong. The story itself - Puerto Rican teenager Agron kills two white youths in a gang-fight in New York, goes to prison, comes out again and dies - was made to carry an unbearable weight of mythic significance. Agron is a catholic saint-figure; he's a victim of racism, he's Christ himself. As played by the salsa singer Ruben Blades, who gave a striking performance full of bruised nobility, Agron does live and breath on the stage. But by splitting the central role between Blades and Marc Anthony - who plays the younger Agron - Simon cuts in half the potential power of the character from the start. It's fair to say that Anthony does not have the charisma of Blades, and that Blades does not really have much to do.

For all the show's admirable anti-racism, Simon paints a drippingly sentimental picture of Puerto Rican life. The island is a green paradise. Agron's mother is a saint, the zoot-suited gang Agron joins in New York to become the Capeman are poor, misunderstood youngsters, and it's fair to say that the climactic moment of the murder itself, and responsibility for it, is fudged.

But surely Simon must have got the music right? Well, some of it is fine, at least compared to the lamentable standard of contemporary Broadway and there are some lovely numbers full of complex, poetic lyrics, but



Down on their luck: Renoly Santiago and Marc Anthony in 'The Capeman', to close after just two months on stage

Photograph: Joan Marcus

every time a new number starts you tend to begin tapping your feet to, say, "Diamonds On the Sole of My Shoes" only to find that what you actually get is a less successful derivative. And an awful lot of the songs sound the same, just like an awful lot of the singers sound just like Simoo, the cast echoing his sweet-voiced intonation. Only Ruben Blades makes the music his own.

Where the show fails more than anything, however, at least when I saw it under the direction of Mark Morris, was the lack of a basic grasp of how to move a large cast convincingly around the stage. This was hard to believe from a MacArthur Prize-winning choreographer but the big musical numbers repeatedly failed to energise either the performers or the audience.

The sets by the British designer Bob Crowley were often wonderful, but given the holes in the story itself, they began to have a reductive effect. As another fitted kitchen came sliding out of the wings to represent the mother's apartment, and another deliciously skewed perspective reordering of a tenement stairwell fitted into the background, one grew less and less astonished.

Despite this catalogue of shortcomings, the show still somehow had the power to move you, especially at its close.

Increasingly disenchanted after his release from prison, and more and more hangdog of expression, the older Agron goes back to his mother's apartment, switches on the television and then dies. There's no big musical number, no moving death-soothing final dance-ac-

tion. He just sniffs it, quietly in his sleep. And then you cry.

*The Capeman* may now have died too, and with it some of the sense of adventure that it was meant to bring to Broadway, but, if few remember Ruben Blades' performance and the brave, foolhardy but sometimes poignant sense of humanism and social concern that Simon intended, it wasn't entirely in vain. A small-scale workshop

production with 10 actors and a four-piece band might be its next incarnation. Which is maybe what it should have been in the first place.

If not, there's got to be a role for Art Garfunkel in there somewhere. Re-title the show *Bright Eyes*, get in some gigantic fluffy rabbits like the animals in *The Jungle Book* and, hey, I think we might just be on to something.

## Lydian modes and all that jazz

Phil Johnson meets George Russell, the man who taught Miles Davis his scales

LIKE some venerable Renaissance scholar, the Ohio-born jazz composer George Russell once wrote a book that few people have actually read but which attained an importance that went far beyond its limited circulation. *The Lydian Concept of Tonal Organisation* (1953) didn't have a catchy title but it changed for ever the way jazz-musicians played, creating a new method of improvising on scales or modes instead of chords.

The theory might be obscure but in practice it's as clear as day. Miles Davis' 1959 album, *Kind of Blue* - for many, the best jazz record ever made - is the most famous application of the method: John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* of 1964 is another. The modal music of the 1960s that Davis and Coltrane inspired became what we now know as modern jazz. If it was modern, Russell's book was in there somewhere, even if like Martin Luther's little primer, almost no one involved had read it.

Once the idea caught on, though, it was as if it was part of the air people breathed and Russell didn't receive much credit for his authorship. "It's on the finer notes of *Kind of Blue* that Miles

was influenced by me," says Russell, "but the most he would say is that he learnt about modes from Bill Evans and that Bill learnt from George. Even Bill - who was a very close friend - never admitted to studying with me, but friends said he had read the book and was very into it."

If Russell feels ignored by history - and he has a right to, for he is one of the most important US composers of the century, whether you count the book or not - he has, at 74, reached a sort of affable equanimity. "That's kind of how it goes," he says when we meet in Boston, where he has been a professor at the New England Conservatory of Music since 1969.

"Whereas at one time I might have felt left out because I didn't have a hand like Ellington's that performed 364 days a year, I now know that was a blessing. The main thing is that I know that, when I want to perform, I can."

The big band with whom Russell plays the Barbican tonight, the Living Time Orchestra, has been going for 14 years. Consisting largely of British musicians like star saxophonist Andy Sheppard, it's an incredible group by any

standards and Russell's music really is a glory to hear. Although melodically and harmonically complex, the band's sound is bold and explosive and, in full flight, almost unbelievably powerful. In essence it's the sound of mid-century urban America in all its convulsive energy, but beefed up by rock rhythms and high-tech keyboard voicings into a completely contemporary ensemble. Conducting from the front with a great sense of showmanship, Russell has even been known to rap a little. It is, in short, the very opposite of the now-dominant retro-aesthetic of Wynton Marsalis, about which Russell - for all his equanimity - completely loses his cool.

"This virtual jazz, cloned jazz, is such a dead idea. The concept that, after 1950, all jazz is junk! I can understand the social reasons for it - rock had just about KO'd jazz, and jazz couldn't get up off the floor - even Miles was playing to only 400 people. And then along comes Wynton, with this idea that the real jazz all happened before 1950, and he doesn't help the situation at all!"

Marsalis's revisionist spin on jazz history is particularly irksome

for Russell because he was part of the great movement of modernism which Marsalis appears to deny. As for his great theory - the Lydian concept - "There's no way you can use it," he says. "You're in it whether you know it or not. I was reluctant about putting the book out again in this restrictive and fascist climate, and I took it off the market for eight or nine years for revisions, but something tells me the time is now right. I've finished revising the first volume and it's just awaiting typesetting."

If he senses a change in the wind, it comes from an unusual direction. "There's every evidence that black people don't monopolise rhythmic intelligence," he says. "Go and see *Riverdance*, for example. I don't know where it came from but, boy, you can't say those people don't have rhythm. It's so refreshing to see that, because it just blows a hole in everything. As Marsalis would preach, it shows that all God's children got rhythm regardless of race, creed or colour!"

George Russell: 7.30pm tonight, at the Barbican, London (0171-638 8891).



George Russell: theoretically speaking  
Photograph: Guy Le Querrec/Magnum

## THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

A CULT would be all right. I could handle being a cult: living hearts torn out of beautiful young virgins, students whipping each other into hysteria repeating my catch-phrases - anything short of mass suicides would be OK, as long as there was some uncritical adulation involved. Or I'd settle for cash.

If you have any doubts about the influence of *Hitch-Hiker*, though, try *Paradise Lost in Cyberspace* (R4, Tuesday). It is tempting to put this future-shock comedy down as one of the BBC's current spurge of re-hashed old ideas. But Colin Swash's take-off of *Logan's Run* is full of ingenious ideas and witty, mildly unnerving extensions of present-day logic (such as a vision of the BBC in the 31st century "broadcasting round-the-clock news to a basso nova beat").

All the same, it clearly could not have existed without *Hitch-Hiker's Guide*, as the casting of Stephen Moore (Marvin, the Paranoid Android) and Geoffrey McGivern (Ford Prefect) tacitly acknowledges. That's the trouble with the modern BBC: a programme can be sold as "another *Hitch-Hiker's Guide*", but as for a real *Hitch-Hiker's Guide*, a programme without any precedent - well, "infinitely improbable" starts to sound optimistic.

Adams didn't have any hints, of course, just a few remarks that swung between blushing self-regard and self-centred modesty ("Sometimes", he said at one point, "it's hell being me"). If one theme did emerge, it was how infinitely improbable it was that the series was ever made at all. Not only was there Adams's own ditheriness to cope with (on occa-

sion he didn't finish a script until the actors had all gone home), there was also the BBC's mulish bureaucracy: it was taken as gospel, for instance, that no comedy could be recorded in stereo, since the listener would not know from which speaker to expect the punchline.

One reason for switching on *The Guide to 20 Years' Hitch-Hiking* (R4, Thursday) was the hope that Douglas Adams might have some ideas to share on how to go about creating a cult. The other reason was sheer nostalgia for the original radio version of *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, which, after two decades and acres of repetition, still sounds astonishingly sharp, fresh and funny. Where the computer graphics of the TV series started to look dated even as it hit the screen, Paddy Kingsland's electronic sound-world retains its air of ambition and inventiveness.

Adams didn't have any hints, of course, just a few remarks that swung between blushing self-regard and self-centred modesty ("Sometimes", he said at one point, "it's hell being me"). If one theme did emerge, it was how infinitely improbable it was that the series was ever made at all. Not only was there Adams's own ditheriness to cope with (on occa-

sion he didn't finish a script until the actors had all gone home), there was also the BBC's mulish bureaucracy: it was taken as gospel, for instance, that no comedy could be recorded in stereo, since the listener would not know from which speaker to expect the punchline.

Stephen Johnson

**PETER FONDA**  
**SCREEN TALK**  
from Easy Rider to Ulee's Gold  
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 8.30pm

**Towards the Millennium:  
The Seventies  
A Child of Our Time**  
RFH, SBC, London

Thematic concert programming is a risky business. Sometimes you end up with something truly enlightening, more often the works in question stubbornly refuse to illuminate the chosen theme. Thursday's Royal Festival Hall concert in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's marathon *Towards the Millennium* series took three British orchestral works from the 1970s: the late Sir Michael

**Barbican Centre**  
Box Office 0171 638 8891 (press 2)  
80-84 St. Giles, London WC1E 7ED  
www.barc.org.uk

## Time alone cannot always tell

### CONCERT REVIEW

**Towards the Millennium:  
The Seventies  
A Child of Our Time**  
RFH, SBC, London

Thematic concert programming is a risky business. Sometimes you end up with something truly enlightening, more often the works in question stubbornly refuse to illuminate the chosen theme. Thursday's Royal Festival Hall concert in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's marathon *Towards the Millennium* series took three British orchestral works from the 1970s: the late Sir Michael

Tippett's Fourth Symphony, Oliver Knussen's Third and Harrison Birtwistle's *The Triumph of Time* - and there's your theme, "The Seventies". Well, you can, if you wish, find distinctively Seventies elements in all three works but that's hardly what makes them interesting. The half-dehumanised cry of the amplified soprano saxophone in *The Triumph of Time*, piercing the metallic halo of vibraphones and the snarls of muted trombones speaks just as directly in our technologically threatened age as it did at the height of the Cold War. The birth-to-death idea behind Tippett's Fourth Symphony is

one of the great constant human themes, and we are probably a lot less inclined to giggle uncomfortably at tape-recorded breathing sounds than many listeners were when the Symphony first appeared, in 1977.

Simon Rattle's performances of the Birtwistle and the Tippett were of the kind that demonstrate elegantly how the elements slot together and the argument flows. On that level, I have never before heard such a convincing account of the Tippett - a performance to silence doubts (mine included). Knussen's compact Third Symphony sounded equally clear and well-calculated, but then its

clarity and intellectual virtuosity have never been called into question to anything like the same degree.

What all three performances lacked - to my ears - was the unquantifiable "tingle factor". Yes, the central climax of the Birtwistle was clearly the right organic development at the right time, but there was nothing thrilling or disturbing about it, apart from the sheer volume of the amplification. And yes, the fast sections Tippett's Fourth pressed forward as purposefully as anything in the more popular Second Symphony, but the brass fanfares often sounded cautious, refined-in-

soloists, only baritone Gerald Finley found the urgency text and music demand.

Hearing *A Child of Our Time* preceded by performances (by the London Admetus Chorale) of the Black American spirituals it borrows in lieu of chorales made one realise afresh how inspired Tippett's use of these times was - and how untypical of them. But then, according to Nietzsche, geniuses are always "untimely": their works are the last places one should go looking for the *Zeigeist* - a truth that *Towards the Millennium* has only intended to underline.

Stephen Johnson



# THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT; DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST  
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000  
FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435  
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

## The problem with our wanton boys

SHAKESPEARE set the text for New Labour's social policy 400 years ago: "I wish there were no age between 10 and 23, because young men get wenches with child, upset the ancients, stealing and fighting." That, precisely, is the problem identified by the Home Secretary last weekend. Boys and men of all classes are acting like the loutish heroes of the television comedy *Men Behaving Badly*, he said. "There's certainly something quite worrying about what is happening to a generation of men."

Many of the modern ills which so exercise Jack Straw and Tony Blair touch on the behaviour of males. Crime, petty vandalism, public disorder, lone parenthood, family breakdown, educational standards. In each case it is boys and men who are the focus of public policy. They are failing behind girls at school, more likely to play truant, lose interest, experiment with drugs and behave anti-socially. They are overwhelmingly responsible for the small acts of aggression which too often build up into a pattern of crime. They get wenches with child and disappear into a nether zone where the Child Support Agency cannot reach them. Or they stick around for a bit and then push off, losing contact with their children and depriving them of role models. It was ever thus, but it seems to be getting worse.

On cue, as if on a mission to prove Mr Straw right, Liam Gallagher was arrested and released on bail in Brisbane for allegedly breaking a fan's nose. For the benefit of any judges who might be reading, Mr Gallagher is the lead singer in a rock band, Oasis, renowned for their infantile and disrespectful behaviour – as well as their music. This week a Sydney woman claimed he had harassed her. He is deemed unsuitable when it comes to drawing up lists of invitations to Downing Street functions, but his marginally more respectable older brother Noel has shared champagne with Mr Blair.

(Mind you, it was Noel who last week offered reporters, trailing the band like seagulls following a ship, some tasteless words on the subject of the People's Princess.)

Mr Straw may be gratified to have his thesis vindicated in full Technicolor, like an X-rated soap opera entitled "The Problem With Boys", but the question is what he intends to do about it.

Shakespeare's shepherd in *The Winter's Tale* suggests the Government should simply abolish men between the ages of 10 and 23. This is the policy currently being enacted in the United States, where a large proportion



of this age group are locked up in prison. Unfortunately, it does not seem to have worked there, and Mr Straw would no doubt want to extend the scope of the policy in both directions. Liam Gallagher is 25. And Mr Straw has already proposed a curfew on under-10s, combined with national home-work norms and state-sponsored bedtime guidelines.

Perhaps the Government should consider other approaches. In his interview, the Home Secretary said: "Some men find it really very difficult to cope with the fact that women are now increasingly on an equal footing ... They try to cope with that by acting the goat, by being the fool." The implication of that is that the blame for Liam's antics lies with Patsy Kensit (notes for judges: she is Mrs Liam Gallagher). Well, perhaps on reflection and after a thorough and wide-ranging review Mr Straw will conclude that Women (Second Class Citizens) (Restoration) Act would not be the ideal answer.

Equally, ministers should hesitate before blaming television. Mr Straw himself admitted he found *Men Behaving Badly* "entertaining". And cartoons, after decades of a very bad press, were exonerated by a study published this week. It concluded that boys tend to watch different kinds, preferring action dramas such as *Street Sharks* and *Batman*. But as any one who had actually watched these morally didactic tales would know, they are pretty banal.

No, when it comes to tackling the tangled undergrowth of causation linking anti-social male behaviour, poverty and exclusion, there is no alternative to the Home Secretary's patient and rather boring list of detailed initiatives. From the moment he inherited the home affairs brief from his fellow social moralist Mr Blair in 1994, Mr Straw has worked on the nitty-gritty of what really matters on the ground. Problem families or problem states; co-operation between police, courts, councils, schools, social workers, charities, churches; and a shift in the focus of public debate to how families work – boys, bedtimes and parenting, rights and responsibilities.

Much of this is earnest and unglamorous politics, but his grasp of these difficult issues explains why the Home Secretary has been one of the unexpected stars of the new Labour administration.

## Children's right to privacy is paramount

MEANWHILE, as just one example of *The Problem With Boys*, it is noticeable that parents these days are often as afraid for their sons as for their daughters, because teenage boys are more likely to be assaulted by others in the street. Indeed, one such incident was reported prominently yesterday.

A 14-year-old boy and his friend were set upon outside their school by two older boys, thought to be from another school. The boy was bruised and scratched, but otherwise all right. So why was this minor incident the front-page lead story in *The Express* and a front-page "exclusive" in *77the Sun*? Simply because the boy's father is famous. And what did the editors of these papers sign up to just four months ago, in response to public concern about invasions of privacy after Princess Diana's death? A Code of Conduct: solemn, binding and positively the last chance for press self-regulation. "Where material about the private life of a child is published there must be justification for publication other than the fame, notoriety or position of his or her parents or guardian," the Code says. Further, "In cases involving children, editors must demonstrate an exceptional public interest to override the normally paramount interests of the child."

The child's father does not want to file a complaint with the Press Complaints Commission. But why should he have to complain? Where is Lord Falconer, the PCC's chairman? The time has come for someone else to have to make self-regulation work. Otherwise, Parliament will have to act.



Twin lambs born three days ago are watched over by Bart the sheepdog at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire. The farm at the hall is open to the public over the weekend, from 11am until 4pm.

Photograph: Brian Harris

### House-moving hell

IN VIEW of your leader ("End the agony of moving house", 5 March), may I assure your readers that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors will not seek to obstruct any innovation in relation to the house-buying process which is in the best interests of buyers and sellers? On the contrary it has published an anti-gazumping and gazundering agreement and is participating constructively as a member of the government steering committee overseeing research into the causes of delay.

Lenders are primarily concerned with the security of the loans they choose to make. Of course chartered surveyors are happy to provide the inspection and valuation reports they require, but we accept that where this ratio of loan to value is clearly relatively low they may not need a valuation.

The RICS, leaders and the Consumers Association have, however, long been concerned to advise prospective purchasers that they should not rely on the mortgage valuation report as the basis of their decisions to buy. As Jeff Howell ("Mortgage lenders may drop surveys", 5 March) makes clear, most have not taken that advice. If in future they are not going to have to bear the cost of a mortgage valuation they may be willing – and would certainly be wise – to put that saving towards obtaining independent advice in the form of the RICS/SVA Homebuyer Survey and Valuation Service or a building survey.

The institution, along with the SVA and NAEA has, at the government's request, agreed to review the option that a report on each second-hand property be made available to all interested parties at the time it is put on the market. This, along with public access to prices paid in recent sales, would allow prospective purchasers to make an informed decision, reduce subsequent withdrawals, delays and renegotiation. PETER McENDRICK  
*President,  
Royal Institution of Chartered  
Surveyors*

### Iraq legacy

WITHOUT wishing to detract from Robert Fisk's excellent reports from Iraq I feel compelled to point out that the reference in your leader to "Robert Fisk's discovery" ("Deadly legacies of war", 5 March) concerning cancer in southern Iraq is inaccurate.

The possible links between the use of depleted uranium (DU) ordnance by the allied forces in the 1991 Gulf "war" and the increase in the number of childhood cancers in Kuwait and southern Iraq have been known for a long time. Thus a secret 1991 report for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority suggested that there was enough DU in these areas to cause "500,000 potential deaths".

The report also stated that "It is in both the Kuwait and UK interest that this is not left to rear its head in years to come."

Last May the former US attorney general Ramsey Clark's group, The International Action Center, pub-

lished a book *Metal of Dishonor* on the subject.

What is true is that, by and large, the media has shown little interest in reporting the suffering of the Iraqi people – despite the fact that our government is in large part responsible for its continuation. I hope the front-page headline ("Iraqi children are dying – you can save them", 6 March) doesn't give people the false impression that by sending money to your appeal they can have any serious impact on this suffering. If they really want to help they should organise within their local communities to put pressure on the Government to change its immoral policy.

GABRIEL CARLYLE  
*Junior Research Fellow  
Magdalen College  
Oxford*

ROBERT FISK gave a graphic and moving account of the appalling medical conditions in Iraq and the desperate plight of ordinary Iraqis who are suffering as a result of the sanctions imposed after the Gulf War. Despite statements to the contrary both food and medicines are covered by the sanctions regime. Many common medicines are disturbed because of their "potential use in the production of arms". Dismissible hypodermic syringes are not allowed, nor are very many common medicines for the treatment of heart disease and cancer. A recent trip to Iraq by voluntary workers carrying vital medicines had many medical supplies impounded by British customs. No medicines can be sent without an export licence from the Government which takes at least 6 months to obtain. How can we possibly continue to support the imposition of sanctions that are resulting

in deaths and human misery on an apocalyptic scale in the name of world peace and human rights?

Sanctions are the modern weapon of mass destruction and are being applied to finish the job started by the massive bombardment of Iraq in 1991. If such a bombardment were applied to sensitive sites in this country such as Porton Down and Aldebaran, Selbyfield and the plethora of military bases on our islands we too would be suffering from the fallout caused.

Let us not forget that our arsenals of weapons of mass destruction is far more diverse and formidable than those in any Third World country and quite plainly are a far greater threat to other nations since they have been used to such great effect upon Iraq. Those who wish to donate small or large amounts to charities to send food and medicines to relieve the suffering in Iraq should at the same time and, more importantly, be demanding the lifting of sanctions to end this genocidal attack upon innocent and helpless human beings.

STEPHANIE AL-WAHID  
*London*

PORN on the Internet

POLITICIANS and commentators alike have congratulated Internet Watch Foundation on their war against digital porn, in particular child porn ("Porn images seized", 4 March).

In their report on Internet Content Rating the IWF claim not only to be enemies of the pornographer but also to be defenders of free speech. By enabling users the choice to screen out distasteful or offensive material, so the argument goes, there will be less need for governments to regulate the Internet. Personally, I do not believe for one moment that such

a rating system can exist without service providers, owners of search engines, colleges and workplaces using such a system to screen material before users get the opportunity to decide for themselves.

The IWF also claims that the proposed system is primarily aimed at parents. As parents we have a duty to protect children from the nastier aspects of life but we also have a duty not to stick our heads in the sand. How can we make informed judgement about material we never get to see and may never even know exists?

In the virtual world offered by the IWF users will even be protected from differences of opinion. The proposed scheme contains a category covering "intolerant" views of groups defined by gender, race, sexual orientation, nationality and so on.

Had we had access to such a system in recent weeks we would presumably have been blissfully unaware of the US and UK's threats of military action against Iraq or Chris Patten's views of the Chinese government expressed in his new book.

JASON BURTON  
*Kingston-upon-Thames  
Surrey*

### Student fees

IN your report ("Lords impose defeat", 3 March) of the debate in the Lords on Student Fees you said that Lord Glenarnon (Ted Short) and the Earl of Longford voted against the Government on the amendment that was carried by 143 to 102. In fact, on that amendment, Lord Glenarnon abstained and Lord Longford voted with the Government.

DENIS CARTER  
*Government Chief Whip  
House of Lords*

### But is it art?

WE WRITE on behalf of the Council of University Deans of Arts and Humanities to express our deep concern over the confiscation by police of a book from the library stock of the University of Central England ("Are his pictures art?", 4 March).

Following referral of the publication to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Crown Prosecution Service has advised police that they have grounds both to ask the university to destroy their copy of Mapplethorpe and to instruct its publishers Jonathan Cape/Random House to pulp all remaining copies. We believe that the possibility that the university may be prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act if they refuse to comply represents an astonishing assault on academic freedom.

One of the main functions – and responsibilities – of universities is surely to analyse culture in an objective and non-judgemental way.

Some of Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs are undoubtedly disturbing in their subject-matter, but he was a major contemporary artist-photographer, one whose art should be analysed and interrogated rather than censored or pulped. Furthermore, the context in which these images were brought to the attention of the police and the CPS was that of a serious research project; this alone should bear witness to the integrity and the legality of the university's position.

We earnestly hope that no further action will be taken in this case and that academic freedom may consequently be seen still to exist in the UK. There can be no doubt that if a prosecution does result, both the international standing and the intellectual and moral authority of British higher education will be seriously damaged.

We urge the authorities to drop all thought of dragging the UK and its universities back into an era of censorship and

Professor MICHAEL WORTON

*Chair, CUDAH*

*Dean, Faculty of Arts,*

*University College London*

ANNA HINDLEY

*Arts Faculty Administrator*

*University College London*

## Rest in peace? Today's spooks don't stand the ghost of a chance



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Some take the view that spectral infestation is as serious a problem as blocked drains. They may well be right

ARE YOU sitting comfortably? No? Good. Because I want to tell you a ghost story. Only, this isn't a story; it's really true. I heard it from *The Daily Telegraph*.

Once upon a time in 1993 in the county of Derbyshire, a joiner called Andrew Smith, his wife Josie and their children moved into a beautiful country cottage, in the village of Upper Mayfield, for which they paid £44,000. At first the Smiths were very happy. They spent a lot on decorating *Loves Cottage* (that was its name) and were very pleased with the results.

But then things started to go wrong. The Smiths began to feel that there was someone in the house besides themselves. Objects moved around of their own accord. Mr Smith became aware of an "evil presence". Then, one dark night, Mrs Smith awoke to find herself being throttled by invisible hands.

Since then, there have been periods when the temperature has suddenly dropped, there are inexplicable putrid smells, and the parent Smiths feel themselves to be "touched" in the night. All of which are, also, symptoms of a gastric flu outbreak in a young family. Or, more likely, thought the Smiths, of the existence of unquiet spirits.

This feeling was vindicated when the afflicted joiner made enquiries among older villagers. What he discovered made him both angry and frightened. The house had a terrible history indeed. A milkmaid had apparently died after being locked in the cellar (a terrible fate, but one alarmingly common in the 16th and 17th centuries according to ghost watchers). And a young boy had – it was reputed – hanged himself from the rafters.

It was obvious to Andrew and Josie that Nelly and Satchavervel (as I like to think of them) were doomed to roam the scene of their deaths, revenging themselves on the living. It also occurred to the haunted couple that someone could – someone should – have

warned them about the dangers of *Loves Cottage*.

They sought advice from their solicitor, Stephen Savage. His advice was unequivocal. "The principle is familiar," he said. "It's the same as if the vendor did not declare faulty central heating or drain. If the Smiths had known about the cottage's history, they would not have bought it." This week a county court judge granted the Smiths leave to pursue a civil claim for the return of their money.

Actually, of course, this is not so much a ghost story as a parallel universe story. The Smiths' claim to believe in a world in which an estate agent's blurb might run thus: "Delightfully aspects stony rm. Sunny, s facing gdn. 2 ambient ghosts, 1 ghost (upstairs only), big bthrm w bits, shw & wrth. Guest cloakrm with hinged child apprm. Reduced because of dry-rot and cause imposed by warlock from Buxton." And in which house vendors hang over half-doors, look prospective buyers in the eye and mutter "don't come here, young master! Nelly be restless with young 'uns about!"

The local council is not sympathetic, refusing to rehouse the Smiths. "The official told us that in the council's eyes a house is not unfit for habitation just because there is a ghost in it," Angie told *The Telegraph*.

So could the Smiths actually win their case? (I bet their lawyer won't take it on a no-win, no-fee basis.) Well, it depends on how many others dwell on their parallel plane. For a start they've got a vicar on their side, the Rev Peter Mockford, who has visited the cottage on a number of occasions to bless its rooms ("2nd bdrm, 11x5, crck & grc book, blsd by cch"). He was so alarmed that he advised the Smiths to leave *Loves Cottage* over Halloween for fear of "evil forces building up".

And it is so impossible that they might find themselves front of a parallel jury, 12 good persons and true, who watch and believe every word of Carol Vorderman's *Mysteries* on BBC1 and *Strange But True* on ITV? Folks who nod at the mention of the word "poltergeist" and whose only question is "what kind: silent or moaning?" They may well take the view that spectral infestation is as real and as urgent a problem as blocked drains (which, from the Smith's description, it so much resembles). In fact many of them might prefer the drains.

A parallel judge might preside (after all, if you accept Masonic ritual, does the idea of moving ectoplasm seem so far-fetched?). Evidence could be given by the small army of psychic investigators, geopathic imagers, Feng Shuiists, theosophists, new age vicars, crystal strokers, astrologers, druids, Ufologists, necromancers, dowsers and aromatherapists who now stalk Britain, seeking the spiritual dimension. Witnesses galore could be found to testify to the ghostly atmosphere of *Loves Cottage*, and – if necessary – to recount their own tales of alien abduction, communion with the dead and previous incarnations.

So is it so unbelievable that the Smiths might indeed *witn their claim*, and get back the £41,000 they paid to Susan Melbourne, who sold *Loves Cottage*, and who claims that she grew up there without experiencing any moaning milkmaids or pendant ladies? I mean, who could believe that?

Nobody perhaps. But the reader – whichever of the two universes he or she inhabits – might care to reflect on this: before the Smiths brought their case, they were themselves – by strange coincidence – being sued by Mrs Melbourne. You see, the original price of the house was £44,000. But the Smiths have still not paid £3,000 of this. Four years after having moved in, Spooky, eh?

It was obvious to Andrew and Josie that Nelly and Satchavervel (as I like to think of them) were doomed to roam the scene of their deaths, revenging themselves on the living. It also occurred to the haunted couple that someone could – someone should – have

AT LONG last someone's noticed. And Scotswomen have the much-maligned Derry Irvine to thank.

Before the headline-grabbing Lord Chancellor's leaked memo this week few realised Scottish Labour are about to do something revolutionary about gender balance at the ballot box ... fewer understood it and even fewer cared.

In fact twinning – or pairing – as Labour describe it to avoid association with jutting councils – could transform UK politics. And a change of that magnitude shouldn't emerge surreptitiously as part of a grudging deal with the Monstrous Regiment – it should be debated and won. Until Derry's leaked memo that was looking unlikely.

Somewhat it's okay to give schools exam targets, okay to have the army target black recruits, okay for Oxbridge colleges to target comprehensive pupils, but not okay to force the pace of change for women where it really matters ... at the heart of public policy making. The last time gender balance hit the headlines was 1994 when the *Jobson* industrial tribunal ruled Labour's women-only shortlists illegal – a breach of the Sex Discrimination Act and unfair to men. Labour decided not to appeal, and the mechanism was scrapped, though not before it delivered the bulk of

Labour's successful female candidates for the 1997 general election. The aggrieved Mr Jobson disappeared without trace.

Twinning doesn't mean positive discrimination for women – it delivers fairness for both sexes. Working on the Noah's Ark principle, the 72 Scottish constituencies are paired – by location and winability. So for example Dunfermline West and Dunfermline East will have one joint selection procedure from which two people will be chosen – the most popular

## Beautiful or not, we should never surrender to the image police

Scorn the squeamish and let even those with the unstylish look be seen, says Trevor Phillips

SORRY, but I'm with Rupert Murdoch. There are certain things that ought not to be allowed into print. Mr Murdoch is, I think, showing a proper respect for the feelings of certain groups of senior citizens in the Republic of China by protecting them from the contents of Chris Patten's memoirs. Who knows what health risks there might be in exposure to criticism? After all, the poor dears aren't used to it. At the very least, some publications should carry a health warning, or the legend "THIS BOOK CONTAINS DANGEROUS THOUGHTS" or some such. Or, in the case of the London *Evening Standard* two days ago, there might be an age certificate, rather like a horror movie.

Joeyanne Wildenstein – the Bride of Wildenstein as she should be known – is an awful warning of the dangers of cosmetic surgery. This is the lady who claimed that she had been so pampered by her billionaire husband that she did not know how to boil water or to make toast. After finding her husband in bed with a young woman at the family's New York home, she sued for divorce and this week found herself on the right end of a maintenance order, which will give her an allowance of more than a million pounds a year, a chateau outside Paris and a huge ranch in Kenya. What her husband won't have to pay for – and there is justice in this – is the regular cosmetic surgery that Mrs Wildenstein indulges in, rather as other women have their legs waxed. What no one seems to have shared with her is the fact that the operations have left her with the kind of face normally found on the side of mediaeval cathedrals. She is now a grotesque.

She is also a great newspaper story, and she knows it. Mrs Wildenstein evidently does not know that her cosmetic surgeon has the most bizarre sense of humour in New York; she is so proud of his work that she provides publicity material posed in classic sex-kitten mode.

A splendid example appeared in Thursday's *Standard*, on page three (where else?); and coming upon it unprepared, would have left readers gasping. If the newspaper's editor, in a fit of liberal generosity, allowed his staff to run such pictures he should at least have the decency to put a warning on the front page, just as radio producers must run a warning



In the eye of the beholder: Picasso's 'Woman With a Hat'

Bridgeman Art Library

about strong language ahead of their programmes, or television companies do in the case of disturbing images. There could have been a small box that told us that Page Three carries an image that make cause distress to children and people of a sensitive disposition. I would have turned straight to pages four and five, since this describes me precisely.

You may say that people in glass houses should not throw stones. Fair enough; but complain when you see my face to those for whom I work. You could also argue that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that I am promoting a profoundly lookist viewpoint. I reject the charge; I can claim enough hours on the front line against prejudice of various kinds not to have to answer to the charge of bigotry. I would, however, acknowledge that the sort of scheme I have in mind would be hard to police.

The judgement about who is truly frightening would undoubtedly be subjective. For example, I gather the popular vote would put Robin Cook and Andrew Neil on the radio, but not TV. I don't see why myself. Yet

I have never quite understood how ITV was allowed to expose children to the vast and menacing bulk of Roger Cook before the watershed.

There are good reasons why we should sometimes be confronted with non-standard features. I would also argue that beauty cannot be reduced to a pure matter of the right kind of skin, symmetrical features or any combination of hair, lips and eyes. It is also a matter of feel. In Simon Weston, the soldier who suffered multiple burns in the Falklands conflict, we can see the nobility and courage in his wrecked face and body; the reconstruction work he has undergone has added to our admiration for him.

This is not about standard norms; it is about fitness for purpose. Perhaps the way to deal with this is to do what governments always do with ticklish issues about which the public cares established a quango. It could be called the Public Acceptability Commission, and it could have an Ugliness Code which defines who should be allowed to appear in which media, with or without warnings. It would have

the same status as the CRE or the EOC, and have some responsibility for ensuring that people were not alarmed by unwarranted ugliness, whilst ensuring that there was no unjustified discrimination against the facially challenged.

It would be a difficult job. TV is a medium whose principal purpose is to entertain. Does that mean that TV producers should be allowed to discriminate against the facially challenged? If not, what excuse would there be to turn down Martin Amis as presenter of book programmes? Some people, for example, are said to have faces perfect for radio, but the public confounds the rankings again and again. So much has been said about Anne Widdecombe that she should be a prime candidate for gargoyle stakes; yet she is now emerging as the Cudlly Party's pin-up, with her

Finally: a public service announcement. As it happens, do have one political ambition – to get a massive turnout in the London referendum on 7 March. But as my friends at Operadio Black Vote reminded us yesterday, many young people from ethnic minorities don't register to vote – in some areas a majority exclude themselves from democracy. If Labour had its own government not only would it get the majority it deserved, it would make the job of covering the capital's politics interesting again. So, make n day.

The deadline to register to vote is 20 March. I'll remind you what way to vote nearer the time.

## Now that's what I call equality of opportunity



LESLEY RIDDOCH

The Noah's Ark principle Labour is using to select candidates for the Scottish Parliament could transform British politics



Lord Irvine: He may be getting a bad press at the moment, but his leaked memo gave women something to thank him for

being a candidate is the same as having a job in the first place.

Why then all the fuss this week about the threat of legal challenge?

To an extent Labour is reaping the harvest it sowed when it failed to appeal against the earlier *Jobson* ruling.

Public opinion is still suspicious of positive discrimination in the workplace. British law, almost alone in Europe, does not allow it. Until recently that hostility was mirrored at the European Court of Justice. But last year it ruled laws correcting historic inequalities between the sexes didn't infringe its Equal Treatment Directive. The Treaty of Amsterdam, signed by Britain, also contains a clause permitting positive action. In short Britain is out of step. Almost every other developed country in the world has more women in government – almost all have used mechanisms to achieve that.

Every elite thinks it has the intelligence and sense of fairness not to clique itself – but without a conscious effort every elite does just that. And even the lack of diverse thought and experience stifles creativity and renders even well-meaning policies impractical.

Scotland can transform its Rab C Nesbitt image in 1999 by raising the public status of women. If it doesn't, many Scots will conclude they've been sold a pup.

Consider a minute. This powerful and non-U-turn prone government has been forced to consider amending the Sex Discrimination Act to try to prevent another hostile and doubtless career-ending legal challenge from an angry man. Does anyone really believe such men will meekly make way for women on a voluntary basis?

For those who complain

**'Twinning doesn't mean positive discrimination for women. It means fairness for both sexes'**

## THE INSIDE STORY OF PATTEN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA

### THE LAST GOVERNOR

CHRIS PATTEN & THE HANDOVER OF HONG KONG



JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

"I have always been a bit negative about him"

RUPERT MURDOCH

"Remarkable ... contains allegations against British Ministers and officials as astonishing as anything in recent imperial history"

Simon Jenkins, THE TIMES

Available at bookshops  
or by calling 0181 324 5515



# 20/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER  
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK  
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Pearson cuts its losses and dumps Mindscape

By Andrew Yates

Pearson, the *Financial Times* to Madame Tussaud's media conglomerate, yesterday drew a line under one of the most disastrous deals in its history by selling Mindscape, its troubled software group. Mindscape has cost Pearson a total of nearly £260m, including around £48m of operating losses and a £21.2m loss on disposal of the business.

The acquisition of Mindscape is widely recognised in the City as being one of the worst corporate acquisitions this decade. It has been a severe embarrassment to Pearson almost from the first day it was purchased in April 1994. It made a small profit that year but plunged into the red in 1995 and made a loss of £45.5m in the following 12 months.

Analysts believe the dire performance of Mindscape contributed to the downfall of Frank Barlow and Michael Blakenham, Pearson's former managing director and chairman respectively.

The sale is the most significant corporate move so far by Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive, who has been handed the daunting task of radically reshaping a group which has been criticised as being a sprawling empire of disparate media interests. She has now raised £500m from disposals since her arrival in January last year.

Mindscape is being sold for \$150m (£91m) to The Learning Company, a US software publisher. News of the sale helped Pearson shares rise 24p to hit an all-time high of 943p as investors sighed with relief that the business had finally been sold.

Analysts pointed out that

tal in buying Mindscape and its spectacular failure was a severe dent to his credibility in the City. "It was Barlow that forced through this deal and it probably contributed to the rug being pulled from his feet at Pearson," said an analyst.

Pearson bought Mindscape to give it a foothold in the CD-Rom market. It paid \$462m for the original business, but made a number of subsequent acquisitions which brought the total cost to \$503m (£305m). The idea was to exploit Mindscape's technology and Pearson's existing publishing strengths to develop new titles and video games. But the ex-

periment quickly turned sour. Despite optimistic predictions of huge growth, the CD-Rom market flopped. Consumer demand was lack lustre and a flood of new titles onto the market lead to prices being slashed, with competitors launching a ferocious battle for shelf space. Mindscape also suffered from having more than its fair share of out-of-date technology. A large amount of its business was based on supplying software for cartridge-based games and it was slow to embrace the shift in consumer demand for personal computers.

However, since clocking up

a huge loss in 1996, Mindscape's management have managed to turn the business around. It actually made a small profit of £1.6m in 1998, despite having made a loss of £15m in the first half of the year.

Pearson is understood to have been keen to sell the business for some time but with losses mounting it was difficult to find anybody remotely interested in the business. However, the return in profit gave the group a chance to recoup at least some of its purchase price.

Mindscape currently produces titles such as *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing*, *The Complete National Geographic Chessmaster*.

Ms Scardino has enthusiastically set about reforming the media empire since her arrival in January last year, launching a £100m expansion of the *FT* and selling off some of the worst performing businesses.

And in her biggest acquisition to date Pearson purchased All American Communications, producer of the Baywatch series, last October for \$373m and disposals will give Pearson more financial clout to make further substantial acquisitions. Ms Scardino pledged last year to double the share price of the group by the year 2002.

Ms Scardino said: "The team at Mindscape have done a fine job in turning around its performance over the last year. But Mindscape is always going to be worth significantly more to a company like The Learning Company than it ever will be to Pearson."

"Its disposal enables us to concentrate our resources on the media businesses where we can build market-leading positions."

### Pearson's problem purchase

April 1994	Pearson buys The Software Toolworks Company for \$462m and renames it Mindscape.
1995	Subsequent acquisitions bring the total cost of Mindscape up to \$503m.
March 1995	Pearson announces that Mindscape made a profit of just £2.9m for the group in 1994.
March 1996	Pearson admits that Mindscape made a loss of £6.9m in 1995.
October 1996	Pearson announces that Frank Barlow, managing director and Lord Blakenham, chairman are to stand down.
January 1997	Frank Barlow retires to be replaced by Marjorie Scardino, the first female chief executive of a FTSE-100 company.
March 1997	Pearson announces that Mindscape lost £45.5m for the group in 1996.
May 1997	Lord Blakenham leaves the group after a career on the group's board spanning 27 years.
January 1998	Frank Barlow knighted in New Year's honours list for his services to the media industry.
March 1998	Mindscape is sold for \$150m (£91m) to The Learning Company, a US software publisher.



Marjorie Scardino: Her most significant corporate move



Lord Blakenham: Deal may have led to his departure

**The team at Mindscape have done a fine job in turning around its performance over the last year. Mindscape is always going to be worth significantly more to a company like The Learning Company than it ever will be to Pearson**

- March 1998

**The Software Toolworks represents a marvellous opportunity ... to bring on board richly talented people whose skills I believe will make a difference to Pearson in many areas of our growing media business**

- March 1994

## Bank looks abroad in search for new monetary talent

By Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

THE Bank of England has been forced to cast its net wider and look abroad in its search for economists and financial specialists to help it in its mission to keep inflation on target and guarantee the UK's financial stability. The necessary talents to satisfy the new demand for economic expertise created by Gordon Brown's decision last May to grant the Bank its operational independence are in short supply in this country.

In a prominent full-page advertisement in the latest issue of *The Economist* magazine the Bank calls for applications from experts in a wide range of areas, from monetary theory to country risk analysis. It offers successful candidates "an unrivalled opportunity to influence the monetary policy debate".

The search for new talent reflects the change in the Bank's activities. Although it lost its banking supervision arm, it gained sole responsibility for hitting the inflation target set by the Chancellor, putting a new premium on the quality of its inflation forecasting.

The trouble is that the UK



William Waldegrave finds a berth as director at Kleinwort

By John Willcock

William Waldegrave, chief secretary to the Treasury until losing his seat in the election last May, is to join Dresdner Kleinwort Benson full time as a director in the investment bank's corporate finance division.

He will concentrate on UK corporate clients when he starts work at the bank's City offices on 30 March. A spokesman for the German-owned bank refused to say how much the former MP for Bristol West would be paid. He will be on a one-year rolling contract.

Mr Brown himself opted to

appoint two foreign-born economists to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee - Willem Buiter and DeAnne Julius - although both are long-standing UK residents.

The Government Economic Service, which provides economists to Whitehall departments including the Treasury, has had difficulty in recruiting enough suitably qualified candidates.

Its new recruits are usually taken fresh from their first degrees and given further training, but many later succumb to the lure of City banks eager to hire people with some policy experience.

The Bank, which operates a separate recruitment scheme, is looking for economists with at least a Master's degree, or analysts from the financial markets for its financial stability wing.

## STOCK MARKETS

## INTEREST RATES

Dow Jones Indexes and graph as from 6pm							
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)	
S&P 500	5782.90	87.30	1.53	5850.00	4186.10	5.22	
S&P 200	3260.60	22.80	0.68	3269.50	3184.20	2.98	
S&P 350	2767.60	36.30	1.33	2798.60	2075.70	3.22	
S&P All Share	2694.78	33.67	1.27	2720.99	2050.07	3.21	
S&P SmallCap	2450.10	8.00	0.32	2489.70	2182.10	2.81	
S&P Preferred	1362.30	3.70	0.27	1366.80	1225.20	3.17	
S&P AM	1012.30	-0.08	-0.08	1135.50	965.50	1.02	
FTSE 100	5531.02	65.94	1.02	5655.08	5356.78	1.64	
FTSE 250	17131.07	282.42	1.68	20910.79	14488.21	0.89	
FTSE SmallCap	70819.53	116.86	1.07	70820.31	70806.13	3.51	
FTSE All Share	4715.85	92.55	2.00	4762.84	3712.33	1.61	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES							
Firms	Price Up	Price Dn	% Change	Firms	Price Up	Price Dn	% Change
Hospitality PLC	308.00	342.00	12.61	Bar Biotech	68.00	4.00	-1.45
BAK PLC	289.00	19.50	7.24	Avis Europe PLC	208.50	7.00	-3.28
Schroders PLC	2570.00	140.00	6.28	Santander PLC	374.50	12.50	-3.22
Holcim	267.75	152.25	6.04	Ream PLC	265.00	7.50	-2.75

## CURRENCIES

Pound	st. 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Dollar	st. 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.5345	-1.05%	1.6017	Stirling	0.5118	+0.20%	0.5243
DM	2.0289	-0.50%	2.0782	DM/Mark	1.8252	+0.52%	1.7182
Yen	209.88	-0.52	195.50	Yen/£	122.27	+10.45	121.34
£ Index	105.60	+0.00	103.00	£/Dollar	104.20	-0.00	104.20

## OTHER INDICATORS

st. 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	st. 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Front Oil (\$)	12.92	-0.24	19.43	114.20	2.00
Gold (\$)	247.30	-0.30	329.15	169.50	3.20
Silver (\$)	6.81	-0.01	9.18	Base Rates	7.25
					6.00

www.bloomberg.com/uk source: Bloomberg

## TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.3627
Austria (schillings)	20.43
Belgium (francs)	59.99
Canada (\$)	2.2640
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8477
Denmark (kroner)	11.15

**Glaxo drops its plans for a hostile SB bid**



**JEREMY WARNER**  
ON WHY CALLS FOR FIXED EXCHANGE RATES ARE UNDERSTANDABLE BUT MISGUIDED

## Dealing with extremes of market behaviour

Imagine a world where all currencies were pegged one to another, so that there could be no currency devaluation or appreciation unless agreed by all through a recognised cross border organisation like the International Monetary Fund.

Plainly your pound would continue to buy more in some places than in others (though presumably even prices would eventually become homogenised across the globe), but essentially your pound would be worth the same wherever you were. To all intents and purposes what we would have is a global single currency. Exchange rate risk would be eliminated and international trade would flourish. A perfect, and in business terms, utopian world then?

OK. So maybe not. Actually it wasn't that long ago that something quite similar to this did exist. The Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate accord, established immediately after the Second World War in an effort to prevent the competitive devaluations which helped plunge the world into depression in the 1930s, prevailed for a surprisingly long time - nearly thirty years.

However, in so far as it ever worked as it was supposed to, this was because nearly all countries at that time had capital controls. The Bank of England maintained a staff of thousands to vet trade and foreign exchange transactions. It was a criminal offence to take more than £50 a head out of the country with you.

Bretton Woods eventually broke down because governments, including our own, refused to devalue despite the burgeoning

trade deficits they were running. But it took a long time. Undoubtedly, it would have happened far sooner if capital had been allowed to slop around the world in the way it does today.

One of the lessons of the economic crisis in the Far East, and indeed of our own membership of the European Exchange Rate mechanism, is that you cannot successfully combine a fixed exchange rate system with one that allows the free flow of capital. Inevitably the one will be troubled by the other.

Comparing the one system against the other, in terms of its ability to create opportunities for trade, growth and prosperity, there seems to be no contest. Today's global capital markets are infinitely more efficient in the way they allocate capital to economic ends, facilitate cross border trade in goods and services, and generally enhance living standards, than the alternative of fixed exchange rates combined with national capital controls.

So why is it that some policy makers, particularly in the Far East, are talking in lively anticipation once more about the possibility of reviving some kind of international fixed exchange rate system? The attachment of the fringe Pacific Rim economies, to fixed exchange rates is well known.

Despite everything that has happened, President Suharto of Indonesia, still talks merrily about re-establishing his peg against the US dollar. To make the peg more credible than it was, he now proposes going the

whole hog and establishing a "currency board". Mr Suharto's motives are always suspect, and no more so than in this instance. If he were able to fix at a relatively high rate against the dollar, he and his family might find it easier to disentangle themselves from their own personal foreign currency debts, even though the wider economic consequences of such a move might be disastrous.

The tin pot dictators of the Far East are one thing, and perhaps don't deserve to be taken seriously. Japanese policy makers are quite another. This week, Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice minister of finance for international affairs, has also been sounding off about the need for some kind of global fixed exchange rate system. Known as "Mr Yen" because of the power of his comments in foreign exchange markets, Mr Sakakibara said the time might be right to reintroduce something along the lines of Bretton Woods.

It's not hard to see why. The immediate cause of the crisis was a sudden and violent flight of foreign capital. In the West, there hasn't been anything comparable since the crash of 1929 - an extraordinary collapse in asset values caused by an abrupt revaluation by international capital of an economic and corporate system that just months previously had been regarded as superior to the West.

We've no recent experience in the West of these extremes of market behaviour. It's easy for us to depict the crisis as one of crony capitalism, bad and corrupt government, inadequate regulation and a fragile banking system, but it was our Western capital that

both fed the boom on the way up and compounded the bust on the way down. Even as foreign capital has fled the region, the corporate West has moved in to take advantage of fire sale prices with significant direct investment. No wonder Malaysia's Mahathir fulminates about a Western capitalist conspiracy to recolonise his country. No wonder the nationalistic backlash across the region.

Mr Sakakibara's precise relationship with the Japanese Government has never been entirely clear. He's plainly well informed about policy in Japan but he's not always representative of it and his views are often his own. Even so, there may be some sympathy for what he's saying on these issues, both within the Japanese Ministry of Finance and among Japanese leaders. Certainly his view that the crisis in the Far East is one of global capitalism, and not as the IMF implies with its reforms, is one of the Asian economic model, is widely shared across the region.

It's not hard to see why. The immediate cause of the crisis was a sudden and violent flight of foreign capital. In the West, there hasn't been anything comparable since the crash of 1929 - an extraordinary collapse in asset values caused by an abrupt revaluation by international capital of an economic and corporate system that just months previously had been regarded as superior to the West.

We've no recent experience in the West of these extremes of market behaviour. It's easy for us to depict the crisis as one of crony capitalism, bad and corrupt government, inadequate regulation and a fragile banking system, but it was our Western capital that

## Liberty marks new era with changes in the boardroom

By Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

**LIBERTY**, the retail group whose entire board was ousted in a shareholder coup last year, attempted to draw a line under its recent problems yesterday when it announced a new boardroom structure and a new finance director.

COURTS, the furniture retailer, turned the tables on its rivals yesterday when it reported surging sales just days after MFI, DFS and Carpetright had warned of severe slowdowns. Courts said sales in its two-month winter sale period to the end of February were up by 28.6 per cent. Sales in January were up by 38 per cent.

Elsewhere, John Lewis, the department store group, said it had found the going tougher in some areas of furnishings. Sales in the week to 28 February were up by just 3 per cent on the same week last year.

Philip Bowman, the new chairman, said: "What we have done is draw a line under all the events of the past year. It is an end of one chapter and we are now looking into the future."

In spite of a profits warning last month, Mr Bowman said he saw the group remaining independent and added that he had received no approaches.



Liberty has shelved plans for a £40m redevelopment of its flagship store in Regent Street, central London

confirmed that it has shelved plans to spend £40m on redeveloping its flagship store in Regent Street, central London.

Michelle Jobling, a former marketing manager of the Tam-pax brand, has been appointed as managing director. Brian Muirhead, previously finance director at Whichford, a motor dealership, is the new finance director.

Philip Bowman, the new chairman, said: "What we have done is draw a line under all the events of the past year. It is an end of one chapter and we are now looking into the future."

In spite of a profits warning last month, Mr Bowman said he saw the group remaining independent and added that he had received no approaches.

He said initial costs and professional fees relating to the plans of the previous management to re-develop the store would result in an exceptional charge of £8m-£10m in the company's current year accounts. This will cause a delay in the company's results which were due in late April.

Mr Bowman said the re-development would only have increased the value of the site by £13m-£15m. He admitted the store required investment but would not be drawn on the figure.

The company plans to look at how best to utilise its property assets which, in addition to the Regent Street store, includes a wholesale building and 15 shops in Foubert's Place. It is possible these could be sold

to raise funds for investment. Mr Bowman gave few details on the group's new strategy but said the Liberty brand could be developed in countries in the Middle East and Latin America.

Liberty was at the centre of a bitter battle last year when the founding Stewart-Liberty family ousted the existing management led by Denis Cassidy.

Société Générale has been named as Liberty's financial adviser and may also act as the group's broker.

## Indonesia warned against any backslicing

By Stephen Vines  
in Hong Kong

The US yesterday insisted the Indonesian government must implement its reform programme as the country's regime stepped up its brinkmanship with the West and with the International Monetary Fund.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said Indonesia must adhere to the terms of its IMF reform programme to restore confidence in the economy. "The key is always with Indonesia ... that there be sustained implementation of the reform programme. That is the path for dealing with the problems in the economy and recovering confidence," Mr

Rubin said. The rest of the world might not think much of Indonesia's plan to create a currency board to stabilise its currency but rumours that the plan was to be implemented saved the rupiah from one its worst one-day falls, which at one point took its value down by more than 15 per cent.

By the time trading closed the rupiah had recovered most of the ground lost during the day, producing a fall of less than 1 per cent. Local investors see the creation of a currency board and the pegging of the rupiah to the US dollar as the only way to stop the freefall, which has caused the local currency to lose almost 76 per cent of its value since last July.

Although local investors like the idea of a currency board, it is opposed by the IMF which is presiding over a \$43bn (£26bn) bail-out. Yesterday there were fresh rumours that the IMF would delay release of the second \$3bn tranche of the bail-out because of dissatisfaction with the government's implementation of IMF-imposed reforms.

Finance Minister Marie Muhamad said he remained optimistic the payment would be forthcoming, insisting any differences in interpretation of the reform programme would be resolved soon.

His optimism contrasted with that of most other sources. The Americans, for example, are reported to be dissatisfied with the outcome of a mission headed by Walter Mondale which had sought to persuade Indonesia of the need to implement the programme and ditch the currency-board plan. A US official was quoted as saying results of the mission were "certainly less than we had hoped for" and Mr Rubin said only that the discussions were a "useful exercise". Britain has also been pushing Indonesia to follow the IMF prescriptions.

Derek Pritchett, junior Foreign Office minister, met President Suharto on Wednesday, carrying the same message as Mr Mondale and appeared to have received the same non-committal response.

Hat Trick Productions, the independent makers of such TV hits as "Have I Got News For You" and "Drop the Dead Donkey" are suing the owners of a pub in Hackney which has named itself after their award-winning comedy show "Father Ted".

Hat Trick, run by joint managing directors Jimmy Mulville and Denise O'Donoghue, have been trying without success to contact the owners of "Father Ted's" in Kingsland High Street, Hackney, in London's East End, since last summer.

The writ names the pub's owners as Barry John Burke, Timothy Doyle and Factsose Limited, the latter a company whose registered office is in Windsor, Berkshire.

Hat Trick are calling for an injunction to restrain the defendants from "passing off" themselves or any business of theirs as being connected or associated in any way with the Plaintiff by use of the name "Father Ted", "Father Ted's" or otherwise howsoever.

The TV company, based in Finchley

Road, London, is also demanding that the pub hand over "all signs, materials, literature and other items" relevant to the name.

Sovereign Unit Trust Managers, which is owned by the mutual Teachers Assurance Group, has issued a writ against Phillips & Drew Fund Managers, NatWest Bank, Bankers Trustee Company and Knox Cropper, in a dispute over fund management fees.

The writ concerns Sovereign's eight unit trusts. Last July the investment regulator IMRO fined Sovereign £225,000 over failures in its internal organisation, for incorrectly pricing the eight trusts for more than a year, and for allowing three of its unit trusts to pay fees Sovereign should have paid itself.

In May 1996 Sovereign paid £1.4 million compensation for the errors to its 40,000 investors.

Now Sovereign's writ is claiming an in-

## White-collar staff feel the force of flexible working patterns

The trend towards "flexible" working patterns will become more pronounced amongst white-collar workers such as managers and professionals, according to a new report, writes Diane Coyle.

An analysis of figures for 1996 shows fixed-term contracts and other forms of temporary work have become more widespread this decade in research jobs and education as well as industries like catering normally associated with job insecurity. According to Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research, the proportion of people working on a temporary contract in research and development

climbed from 13.4 per cent in 1992 to 16.0 per cent in 1996. For education the proportion rose from 13.2 to 16.9 per cent.

These figures mean such arrangements are already more common in these fields than in catering, healthcare or other personal services, even though the number of people involved is smaller. Fixed-term contracts have made particular headway in teaching, applying to nearly one in five teachers. But one in 10 science and engineering professionals also has a fixed contract, and they spread particularly rapidly, from a small base, among health professionals.

## Energy chief urges caution

ENERGY Group held back from recommending either of two rival offers from US groups yesterday until more details were available and intentions "finally clarified." The latest offers are pitched at 820p share from Pacificorp, which has passed all regulatory hurdles, and at 840p from Texas Utilities, which has yet to get a green light in Britain or the US. "In view of the fact that the intentions of Pacificorp and Texas Utilities have not been finally clarified, your board has not recommended either of these increased offers," Derek Bonham, Energy Group chairman, told shareholders yesterday.

## COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Dragon DR (F)	817.8m (1.4m)	50.501m (-0.414m) 52.0m (25%)	-1	
Dragee (F)	265.8m (23.6m)	18.02m (15.67m)	121.1p (25.5p)	37p (25p)
Independent Energy (F)	22.7m (2.7m)	-0.424m (-0.597m)	-2.8p (-4.5p)	-1
Life Sciences (F)	70.31m (80.02m)	8.35m (7.25m)	21.4p (18.0p)	8.15p (8.5p)
Primary Health Care (F)	-	0.5m (1.3m)	2.6p (1.4p)	0.5p (1.2p)
(F) = Final (R) = Interim				

## Griggs sues Fontwell

Griggs, in a row over fees, Fontwell Pa Steeplechase Plc and The Plumpton Racecourse have issued writs for damages against Mr Griggs, who trades as Prati Co and who stopped working for them in 1996.

The two writs were issued by Fors Saunders Kerman, a firm of solicitors based in London. Andy Kerman, a member of the family which controlled both racecourses, said Plumpton was sold recently, is a member of the law firm.

The racecourses are demanding damages for breach of contract and for "fraudulent misrepresentation by the Defendant or in writing on diverse occasions."

The writs also demand the return "money paid by the Plaintiff to the defendant under a mistake of fact as to what sum were properly chargeable to the Plaintiff by the Defendant."

The racecourse owners also demand a complete account of the money paid to defendant.

# Next suits City with a smart recovery

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Next, the retailer, ended a threadbare week with a smart, if modest, recovery. The shares rallied 41p to 753p as investment house Morgan Stanley, long time fans of the group, dismissed the bear stories which have swirled around the stock market and upgraded its recommendation to "strong buy".

At one time the price was up 67p. It slipped back in the last 30 minutes. The shares started the week at 825p.

Analyst Peter Brockwell said the market "had grown increasingly alarmed by what amounts to scare mongering and has lost touch with the fundamentals of the company".

Rumours questioned the health of chief executive David Jones, who is also chairman of Great Universal Stores, was interpreted as diminishing the chance of a GUS take over strike.

Last month Next shares hit an 835p peak. When disaster appeared inevitable at the end of 1990 they closed at

warning was being prepared. A fit David Jones has told inquirers he is prepared to challenge them to two rounds of golf and Mr Brockwell said the Next chief executive "is very well and is mystified by persistent reports of his ill health in the City".

The analyst said he was "firmly of the opinion that there is no requirement for a profits warning".

He pointed to the group's Christmas trading report when it said sales had gone well and said autumn/winter stocks had been cleared. The spring range was in the shops in January.

The signalled departure of chairman Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, who is also chairman of Great Universal Stores, was interpreted as diminishing the chance of a GUS take over strike.

Analyst Peter Brockwell said the market "had grown increasingly alarmed by what amounts to scare mongering and has lost touch with the fundamentals of the company".

13.5p having fallen into single figures.

GUS has, of course, aligned with a hostile 570p share strike on Argos, the catalogue stores chain. Argos slipped 3p to 606p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said the investment house believed there is little chance of a white knight appearing and the bid could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The market ended a three day losing patch in some style with Footsie recovering 87.3 points to 5,782.9. The mid and small cap indices put on positive displays.

Schroders, the investment group, led the blue chip surge, up 140p to 2,370p. Take over talk was, of course, in the air but its year's results, due next week, probably provided the main impetus. Profits are expected to emerge at £265m against £238.7m with the dividend increased by 3p to 23p.

The rest of the financial pack

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.2p to 687.5p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Jarvis, the rail maintenance group shunted along at 4.75p three years ago, came within a whisker of 600p, closing at 596p.

Cottee Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was again active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

see the shares going to 1,100p.

Globo Wellcome put on 34p at

1,656p.

Base, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts.

Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had

no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p.

The end of Pearson's tormented ownership of consumer software publisher Mindscape pushed the shares up 24p to 943p.

Vodafone recovered from

## TAKING STOCK

Deals are due to start on the fringe Ofex share market on Monday in Advance Digital Communications, latest offering from the Ruegg & Co. investment house. Shares were sold at 20p giving a capitalisation of £7m. The offer was heavily oversubscribed. ADC, started in 1982, specialises in visual communications for corporate events. "Illustrative financial projections" suggests profits of £2.1m this year and £6.6m next.

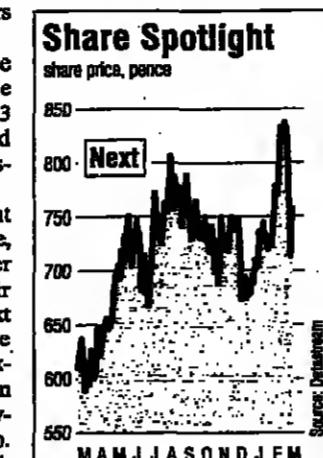
Barcom, a plant hire group, advanced 19.5p to 68.5p after GE Capital, the US group, emerged with an agreed 72p a share takeover bid. Health

care moved forward 13.5p as Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

FirstGroup's controversial £140m swoop for Great Western, the railway, gave the shares a 34.5p push to 308p.

Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer and hotelier, fell 6p to 229p, a shade above its 12 month low. Profits this year are expected to be around £40.7m against last year's £38.3m.

Prime People, the recruitment group, put on a further 2.25p to 13.75p ahead of next week's figures and Rage Software, continued to draw support on talk of a new computer game, gaining 1.25p to 10.5p.



The rest of the financial pack

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.2p to 687.5p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Jarvis, the rail maintenance group shunted along at 4.75p three years ago, came within a whisker of 600p, closing at 596p.

Cottee Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was again active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

see the shares going to 1,100p.

Globo Wellcome put on 34p at

1,656p.

Base, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts.

Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had

no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p.

The end of Pearson's tormented ownership of consumer software publisher Mindscape pushed the shares up 24p to 943p.

Vodafone recovered from

Deals are due to start on the fringe Ofex share market on Monday in Advance Digital Communications, latest offering from the Ruegg & Co. investment house. Shares were sold at 20p giving a capitalisation of £7m. The offer was heavily oversubscribed. ADC, started in 1982, specialises in visual communications for corporate events. "Illustrative financial projections" suggests profits of £2.1m this year and £6.6m next.

Barcom, a plant hire group, advanced 19.5p to 68.5p after GE Capital, the US group, emerged with an agreed 72p a share takeover bid. Health

care moved forward 13.5p as Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

FirstGroup's controversial £140m swoop for Great Western, the railway, gave the shares a 34.5p push to 308p.

Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer and hotelier, fell 6p to 229p, a shade above its 12 month low. Profits this year are expected to be around £40.7m against last year's £38.3m.

Prime People, the recruitment group, put on a further 2.25p to 13.75p ahead of next week's figures and Rage Software, continued to draw support on talk of a new computer game, gaining 1.25p to 10.5p.

The rest of the financial pack

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.2p to 687.5p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Jarvis, the rail maintenance group shunted along at 4.75p three years ago, came within a whisker of 600p, closing at 596p.

Cottee Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was again active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

see the shares going to 1,100p.

Globo Wellcome put on 34p at

1,656p.

Base, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts.

Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had

no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p.

The end of Pearson's tormented ownership of consumer software publisher Mindscape pushed the shares up 24p to 943p.

Vodafone recovered from

Deals are due to start on the fringe Ofex share market on Monday in Advance Digital Communications, latest offering from the Ruegg & Co. investment house. Shares were sold at 20p giving a capitalisation of £7m. The offer was heavily oversubscribed. ADC, started in 1982, specialises in visual communications for corporate events. "Illustrative financial projections" suggests profits of £2.1m this year and £6.6m next.

Barcom, a plant hire group, advanced 19.5p to 68.5p after GE Capital, the US group, emerged with an agreed 72p a share takeover bid. Health

care moved forward 13.5p as Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

FirstGroup's controversial £140m swoop for Great Western, the railway, gave the shares a 34.5p push to 308p.

Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer and hotelier, fell 6p to 229p, a shade above its 12 month low. Profits this year are expected to be around £40.7m against last year's £38.3m.

Prime People, the recruitment group, put on a further 2.25p to 13.75p ahead of next week's figures and Rage Software, continued to draw support on talk of a new computer game, gaining 1.25p to 10.5p.

The rest of the financial pack

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.2p to 687.5p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Jarvis, the rail maintenance group shunted along at 4.75p three years ago, came within a whisker of 600p, closing at 596p.

Cottee Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was again active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

see the shares going to 1,100p.

Globo Wellcome put on 34p at

1,656p.

Base, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts.

Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had

no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p.

The end of Pearson's tormented ownership of consumer software publisher Mindscape pushed the shares up 24p to 943p.

Vodafone recovered from

Deals are due to start on the fringe Ofex share market on Monday in Advance Digital Communications, latest offering from the Ruegg & Co. investment house. Shares were sold at 20p giving a capitalisation of £7m. The offer was heavily oversubscribed. ADC, started in 1982, specialises in visual communications for corporate events. "Illustrative financial projections" suggests profits of £2.1m this year and £6.6m next.

Barcom, a plant hire group, advanced 19.5p to 68.5p after GE Capital, the US group, emerged with an agreed 72p a share takeover bid. Health

care moved forward 13.5p as Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

FirstGroup's controversial £140m swoop for Great Western, the railway, gave the shares a 34.5p push to 308p.

Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer and hotelier, fell 6p to 229p, a shade above its 12 month low. Profits this year are expected to be around £40.7m against last year's £38.3m.

Prime People, the recruitment group, put on a further 2.25p to 13.75p ahead of next week's figures and Rage Software, continued to draw support on talk of a new computer game, gaining 1.25p to 10.5p.

The rest of the financial pack

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.2p to 687.5p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panairure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Jarvis, the rail maintenance group shunted along at 4.75p three years ago, came within a whisker of 600p, closing at 596p.

Cottee Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was again active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

see the shares going to 1,100p.

Globo Wellcome put on 34p at

1,656p.

Base, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts.

Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had

no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p.

The end of Pearson's tormented

Ticket  
touts  
lose  
appeal

10

**UK Equity Growth**

THE WAVE  
COTTON COTTON COTTON  
0494

	UK	Small Companies
Aviva	1000	1000
BAA	1000	1000
Barclays	1000	1000
BP	1000	1000
BT Group	1000	1000
CitiBank	1000	1000
GlaxoSmithKline	1000	1000
HSBC	1000	1000
Imperial Chemical Industries	1000	1000
ING	1000	1000
ITV	1000	1000
John Lewis	1000	1000
Land Rover	1000	1000
Marconi	1000	1000
Mitsubishi	1000	1000
National Grid	1000	1000
Network Rail	1000	1000
PA	1000	1000
Prudential	1000	1000
Standard Chartered	1000	1000
Sunlife	1000	1000
Telstra	1000	1000
Unilever	1000	1000
Vodafone	1000	1000
WPP	1000	1000
WTI	1000	1000
WTX	1000	1000
WTX 100	1000	1000
WTX 200	1000	1000
WTX 300	1000	1000
WTX 400	1000	1000
WTX 500	1000	1000
WTX 600	1000	1000
WTX 700	1000	1000
WTX 800	1000	1000
WTX 900	1000	1000
WTX 1000	1000	1000
WTX 1100	1000	1000
WTX 1200	1000	1000
WTX 1300	1000	1000
WTX 1400	1000	1000
WTX 1500	1000	1000
WTX 1600	1000	1000
WTX 1700	1000	1000
WTX 1800	1000	1000
WTX 1900	1000	1000
WTX 2000	1000	1000
WTX 2100	1000	1000
WTX 2200	1000	1000
WTX 2300	1000	1000
WTX 2400	1000	1000
WTX 2500	1000	1000
WTX 2600	1000	1000
WTX 2700	1000	1000
WTX 2800	1000	1000
WTX 2900	1000	1000
WTX 3000	1000	1000
WTX 3100	1000	1000
WTX 3200	1000	1000
WTX 3300	1000	1000
WTX 3400	1000	1000
WTX 3500	1000	1000
WTX 3600	1000	1000
WTX 3700	1000	1000
WTX 3800	1000	1000
WTX 3900	1000	1000
WTX 4000	1000	1000
WTX 4100	1000	1000
WTX 4200	1000	1000
WTX 4300	1000	1000
WTX 4400	1000	1000
WTX 4500	1000	1000
WTX 4600	1000	1000
WTX 4700	1000	1000
WTX 4800	1000	1000
WTX 4900	1000	1000
WTX 5000	1000	1000
WTX 5100	1000	1000
WTX 5200	1000	1000
WTX 5300	1000	1000
WTX 5400	1000	1000
WTX 5500	1000	1000
WTX 5600	1000	1000
WTX 5700	1000	1000
WTX 5800	1000	1000
WTX 5900	1000	1000
WTX 6000	1000	1000
WTX 6100	1000	1000
WTX 6200	1000	1000
WTX 6300	1000	1000
WTX 6400	1000	1000
WTX 6500	1000	1000
WTX 6600	1000	1000
WTX 6700	1000	1000
WTX 6800	1000	1000
WTX 6900	1000	1000
WTX 7000	1000	1000
WTX 7100	1000	1000
WTX 7200	1000	1000
WTX 7300	1000	1000
WTX 7400	1000	1000
WTX 7500	1000	1000
WTX 7600	1000	1000
WTX 7700	1000	1000
WTX 7800	1000	1000
WTX 7900	1000	1000
WTX 8000	1000	1000
WTX 8100	1000	1000
WTX 8200	1000	1000
WTX 8300	1000	1000
WTX 8400	1000	1000
WTX 8500	1000	1000
WTX 8600	1000	1000
WTX 8700	1000	1000
WTX 8800	1000	1000
WTX 8900	1000	1000
WTX 9000	1000	1000
WTX 9100	1000	1000
WTX 9200	1000	1000
WTX 9300	1000	1000
WTX 9400	1000	1000
WTX 9500	1000	1000
WTX 9600	1000	1000
WTX 9700	1000	1000
WTX 9800	1000	1000
WTX 9900	1000	1000
WTX 10000	1000	1000
WTX 10100	1000	1000
WTX 10200	1000	1000
WTX 10300	1000	1000
WTX 10400	1000	1000
WTX 10500	1000	1000
WTX 10600	1000	1000
WTX 10700	1000	1000
WTX 10800	1000	1000
WTX 10900	1000	1000
WTX 11000	1000	1000
WTX 11100	1000	1000
WTX 11200	1000	1000
WTX 11300	1000	1000
WTX 11400	1000	1000
WTX 11500	1000	1000
WTX 11600	1000	1000
WTX 11700	1000	1000
WTX 11800	1000	1000
WTX 11900	1000	1000
WTX 12000	1000	1000
WTX 12100	1000	1000
WTX 12200	1000	1000
WTX 12300	1000	1000
WTX 12400	1000	1000
WTX 12500	1000	1000
WTX 12600	1000	1000
WTX 12700	1000	1000
WTX 12800	1000	1000
WTX 12900	1000	1000
WTX 13000	1000	1000
WTX 13100	1000	1000
WTX 13200	1000	1000
WTX 13300	1000	1000
WTX 13400	1000	1000
WTX 13500	1000	1000
WTX 13600	1000	1000
WTX 13700	1000	1000
WTX 13800	1000	1000
WTX 13900	1000	1000
WTX 14000	1000	1000
WTX 14100	1000	1000
WTX 14200	1000	1000
WTX 14300	1000	1000
WTX 14400	1000	1000
WTX 14500	1000	1000
WTX 14600	1000	1000
WTX 14700	1000	1000
WTX 14800	1000	1000
WTX 14900	1000	1000
WTX 15000	1000	1000
WTX 15100	1000	1000
WTX 15200	1000	1000
WTX 15300	1000	1000
WTX 15400	1000	1000
WTX 15500	1000	1000
WTX 15600	1000	1000
WTX 15700	1000	1000
WTX 15800	1000	1000
WTX 15900	1000	1000
WTX 16000	1000	1000
WTX 16100	1000	1000
WTX 16200	1000	1000
WTX 16300	1000	1000
WTX 16400	1000	1000
WTX 16500	1000	1000
WTX 16600	1000	1000
WTX 16700	1000	1000
WTX 16800	1000	1000
WTX 16900	1000	1000
WTX 17000	1000	1000
WTX 17100	1000	1000
WTX 17200	1000	1000
WTX 17300	1000	1000
WTX 17400	1000	1000
WTX 17500	1000	1000
WTX 17600	1000	1000
WTX 17700	1000	1000
WTX 17800	1000	1000
WTX 17900	1000	1000
WTX 18000	1000	1000
WTX 18100	1000	1000
WTX 18200	1000	1000
WTX 18300	1000	1000
WTX 18400	1000	1000
WTX 18500	1000	1000
WTX 18600	1000	1000
WTX 18700	1000	1000
WTX 18800	1000	1000
WTX 18900	1000	1000
WTX 19000	1000	1000
WTX 19100	1000	1000
WTX 19200	1000	1000
WTX 19300	1000	1000
WTX 19400	1000	1000
WTX 19500	1000	1000
WTX 19600	1000	1000
WTX 19700	1000	1000
WTX 19800	1000	1000
WTX 19900	1000	1000
WTX 20000	1000	1000
WTX 20100	1000	1000
WTX 20200	1000	1000
WTX 20300	1000	1000
WTX 20400	1000	1000
WTX 20500	1000	1000
WTX 20600	1000	1000
WTX 20700	1000	1000
WTX 20800	1000	1000
WTX 20900	1000	1000
WTX 21000	1000	1000
WTX 21100	1000	1000
WTX 21200	1000	1000
WTX 21300	1000	1000
WTX 21400	1000	1000
WTX 21500	1000	1000
WTX 21600	1000	1000
WTX 21700	1000	1000
WTX 21800	1000	1000
WTX 21900	1000	1000
WTX 22000	1000	1000
WTX 22100	1000	1000
WTX 22200	1000	1000
WTX 22300	1000	1000
WTX 22400	1000	1000
WTX 22500	1000	1000
WTX 22600	1000	1000
WTX 22700	1000	1000
WTX 22800	1000	1000
WTX 22900	1000	1000
WTX 23000	1000	1000
WTX 23100	1000	1000
WTX 23200	1000	1000
WTX 23300	1000	1000
WTX 23400	1000	1000
WTX 23500	1000	1000
WTX 23600	1000	1000
WTX 23700	1000	1000
WTX 23800	1000	1000
WTX 23900	1000	1000
WTX 24000	1000	1000
WTX 24100	1000	1000
WTX 24200	1000	1000
WTX 24300	1000	1000
WTX 24400	1000	1000
WTX 24500	1000	1000
WTX 24600	1000	1000
WTX 24700	1000	1000
WTX 24800	1000	1000
WTX 24900	1000	1000
WTX 25000	1000	1000
WTX 25100	1000	1000
WTX 25200	1000	1000
WTX 25300	1000	1000
WTX 25400	1000	1000
WTX 25500	1000	1000
WTX 25600	1000	1000
WTX 25700	1000	1000
WTX 25800	1000	1000
WTX 25900	1000	1000
WTX 26000	1000	1000
WTX 26100	1000	1000
WTX 26200	1000	1000
WTX 26300	1000	1000
WTX 26400	1000	1000
WTX 26500	1000	1000
WTX 26600	1000	1000
WTX 26700	1000	1000
WTX 26800	1000	1000
WTX 26900	1000	1000
WTX 27000	1000	1000
WTX 27100	1000	1000
WTX 27200	1000	1000
WTX 27300	1000	1000
WTX 27400	1000	1000
WTX 27500	1000	1000
WTX 27600	1000	1000
WTX 27700	1000	1000
WTX 27800	1000	1000
WTX 27900	1000	1000
WTX 28000	1000	1000
WTX 28100	1000	1000
WTX 28200	1000	1000
WTX 28300	1000	1000
WTX 28400	1000	1000
WTX 28500	1000	1000
WTX 28600	1000	1000
WTX 28700	1000	1000
WTX 28800	1000	1000
WTX 28900	1000	1000
WTX 29000	1000	1000
WTX 29100	1000	1000
WTX 29200	1000	1000
WTX 29300	1000	1000
WTX 29400	1000	1000
WTX 29500	1000	1000
WTX 29600	1000	1000
WTX 29700	1000	1000
WTX 29800	1000	1000
WTX 29900	1000	1000
WTX 30000	1000	1000

•

Launch: 2 PM

**International**      00/00      000  
**International**      03/75      000  
**Private City**      11/84      500

Lunch or Tea FORM

Winnipeg  
supermarkets.  
244-44

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Rosenberg and Standard & Poors Micropal for the independent is correct, but neither warrant, represent, nor guarantee the correctness.

**The five performing funds of each sector are highlighted in bold. All funds are more than one year old. Fund sizes taken on the first day of the performance period.**

Lic Fonds that are Closed to New Business have been marked.

I donated a fund available through a Majorca's PEP scheme.

---

卷之三

**Bloomberg**

**& POOR'S** [www.bloomberg.com/ul](http://www.bloomberg.com/ul)

89a



## UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

**DRIVING AMBITIONS**

Complete guide to the Formula One season

PAGE 35

**APPEALING PROSPECT**

Test hopefuls take the field in Barbados

PAGE 40

**WINNING SMILE**

Banging the drum for Torquay

PAGE 36

**THE MONEY**

What £12m worth of pension products can buy

PAGE 57



How clever can your family car get?

PAGE 45

# THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

11 PAGES

MARCH 7 1998

## PLAYERS URGED TO IGNORE WOODWARD ULTIMATUM

## Clubs push England to the brink

BY DAVID HANDS  
AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLISH rugby stands on the brink of a rupture the long-term consequences of which can only be imagined. The Rugby Football Union (RFU), the governing body of the game in England, has presented an ultimatum to its 12 leading clubs and, if no compromise is reached over the weekend, there is the real possibility of the most famous clubs in the country being expelled from the union.

The clubs, among them Bath, Wasps and Leicester, met in London yesterday and emerged united in their view that England should not tour the southern hemisphere this summer. If they hold that position, their players have already been told they will not be considered for international rugby as from Monday and their employers, the clubs, will be deemed to be in breach of International Rugby Board (IRB) regulations.

The expulsion of clubs could not be accomplished at the drop of a hat but club officials are bracing themselves for such a decision. They believe that Cliff Brindle, chairman of the RFU management board, and Fran Coton, his vice-chairman, seek to break the power of the clubs as a means of securing their assets, the leading players, on RFU contracts.

The whole sorry affair is the climax to a festering disagreement that has dogged English rugby since the game went professional in August 1995. A year ago both sides believed that a better relationship could be developed and, as recently as last autumn, Brindle said that the two sides had never been closer. However, the announcement since then of Coton's vision of the future of the game in England shattered the fragile peace.

That vision, the clubs contend, would lead to their eventual contraction and, to reinforce the point, they have rejected overtures made by Brindle this week that would restore them to European competition next season. Those overtures, they claim, would leave them with only four Premiership games before Christmas next season while, in the next season, thanks to the 1999 World Cup, domestic rugby would begin in February 2000.

That the issue that has brought matters to a head this week has been the RFU demands upon the leading players and the withdrawal by Northampton of players such as Tim Rodber and Paul Grayson from the scheduled tour to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in June is almost coincidental. If it had not been that issue, it would have been another and Keith Burwell, the Northampton



Man in the middle: Dallaglio, like all the England players, is caught in the struggle between the clubs and the RFU for control of the game. Photograph: Marc Aspland. Shirts from Allsports

owner, now has the "bloody punch-up" that he thought would be required before the air cleared.

"All 12 clubs stand together. I have never known everyone so rock solid," Donald Kerr, chairman of English First Division Rugby (EFDR), said. "We protested about this tour some time ago, about England playing four tests and three quasi-tests after a long hard domestic season but we were

required England to play 12 internationals outside the Five Nations Championship over the five years of the agreement. If the summer tour goes ahead, England will have played eight within the first two years.

After their meeting the clubs confirmed their support for international rugby and their desire to honour existing re-

lease agreements on their players. "In the interests of the

clubs, we were committed to the tour but denied that he had come to any long-term agreement with the RFU. "The players are stuck in the middle of a situation over which they have little real control."

"We believe that a summer's rest will be the best preparation for England in their endeavours to win the World Cup in 1999," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said. The RFU believes it is in the right legally and has suggested that many first division club contracts have not been registered with them, as IRB regulations require. All contracts have to be approved by the union and must include their unrestricted release for international duty.

They described the ultima-

tum given to the England training squad on Wednesday by Clive Woodward, the national coach, as provocative.

Woodward asked the players

to decide on their availability for the summer tour by Monday or forfeit international places for the remainder of the Five Nations this season.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the Eng-

land captain, said yesterday he was committed to the tour but denied that he had come to any long-term agreement with the RFU. "The players are stuck in the middle of a situation over which they have little real control."

"We believe that a summer's

rest will be the best preparation

for England in their endeavours to win the World

Cup in 1999," Peter Wheeler,

the Leicester chief executive,

said. The RFU believes it is in

the right legally and has

suggested that many first divi-

nion club contracts have not

been registered with them, as

IRB regulations require. All

contracts have to be approved

by the union and must include

their unrestricted release for

international duty.

They described the ultima-

tum given to the England training squad on Wednesday by Clive Woodward, the national coach, as provocative.

Woodward asked the players

to decide on their availability

for the summer tour by Mon-

day or forfeit international

places for the remainder of

the Five Nations this season.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the Eng-

land captain, said yesterday he

was committed to the tour but

denied that he had come to any

long-term agreement with the

RFU. "The players are stuck

in the middle of a situation over

which they have little real con-

trol."

"It is amazing that we can avert war with Iraq but cannot sort out rugby"

Lawrence Dallaglio, page 41

given the same lame excuse about the RFU's contractual obligations."

The Times understands that contracts with the host unions in the southern hemisphere were signed little more than two months ago and the terms of the RFU's agreement with BSkyB, the satellite television station that is partially owned by News International, owner of The Times, only

players' welfare, the RFU should reconsider the southern hemisphere tour proposed this summer," they said. The clubs will meet their players next week to explain the stance they have taken.

They described the ultima-

tum given to the England

training squad on Wednesday

by Clive Woodward, the national

coach, as provocative.

Woodward asked the players

to decide on their availability

for the summer tour by Mon-

day or forfeit international

places for the remainder of

the Five Nations this season.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the Eng-

land captain, said yesterday he

was committed to the tour but

denied that he had come to any

long-term agreement with the

RFU. "The players are stuck

in the middle of a situation over

which they have little real con-

trol."

## QUESTIONS OF LOYALTY

Q. Will England field a first-choice team against Scotland on March 22?

A. Not as things stand.

Q. Why?

A. If the players refuse to commit themselves on Monday to England's summer tour of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, coach Clive Woodward has said that he will not consider them for any future matches.

Q. Why won't the players commit themselves?

A. Because the clubs, their employers, are advising them not to. They want them to rest.

Q. Why do the clubs want them to rest?

A. Because the players are wanted for too many games. Rugby is the most physically demanding of team sports and leading players have been going non-stop for nearly two years.

Q. Why does Woodward want them to play?

A. Because his employers, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), see such tours as a means to improve England's performance.

Q. Who will play for England against Scotland?

A. Players from outside the top division - effectively a fifth-string team.

Q. What happens now?

A. Nobody knows. This looks like the endgame of the 30-month struggle for control between the owners of the leading professional clubs and the traditional ruling body, the RFU.

# STOP making OBSCENE phone CALLS

THINK first



BT	FT
49p	25p
25p	15p
57p	28p
25p	12p
24p	10p
24p	5p

International calls. BT standard home rates for 1 minute calls.

BT now charge up to three times more than First Telecom for international calls. If you don't want to pay those prices, just add First Telecom's service to your existing BT phone by calling the number below. You can open an account any time, any day and start saving on calls to over 200 countries. So, before you make another international call, think First.

**FIRST TELECOM**  
0800 458 6666.  
Lines open 24 hours.  
[www.first-telecom.com](http://www.first-telecom.com)

## Driven beyond endurance by the Shearer papers

At the publishing office of Hamish MacHoot on Tuesday morning, copy editor Jeremy Tadpole was sitting down to his daily grind, proof-reading the latest autobiography of Alan Shearer. "Blah, blah, blah," he said briskly to himself, as a mental limbering-up exercise. "Ahem. Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb."

Shearer's style was proving a bit of a challenge for a depressive narcoleptic like Tadpole. In publishing circles, they would call it Henry James without the roller-coaster effect. But Tadpole was not to be outdone. He drained his triple espresso, stretched his eyes, cracked his knuckles, sponged the back of his neck and began.

Brazil are the world champions. They are the team everyone has to catch. They are in that position because they have earned the right to be there. We need to keep ticking over, to get the right results...

**LYNNE TRUSS**

Tadpole woke with a start, his forehead in a pool of dribble. This was always happening. He'd been reading page 14 now for six weeks and it was becoming clear that absolutely nothing could keep him awake. Just yesterday, Boomer MacHoot had entered the room to find Tadpole nodding soundly over his desk, despite the sewing needles he'd placed under the skin of his fingers and the wire with which he'd ingeniously attached the needles to a series of battery packs. Sensing a problem, MacHoot had thrown a glass of water over him. "Still reading the Shearer, Jeremy?" he'd boomed.

"Asahah," Tadpole screamed.

"Good man, Tadpole. We're relying on you."

"Asahah, thank you, sir. Asah."

Now Tadpole flicked through the pages ahead, searching randomly for sensations of any sort. He was building up to a decision. "We

knew training would be tough," he read, with a sinking heart. "I have never even seen any of these supposed social drugs." "My leg hurt for quite some time." He stood up, opened the office window and climbed out. It was cold on the windy ledge beneath him, the grimy traffic roared and honked. This was an extreme measure, but effective. Adrenalin coursed through Tadpole and he felt more awake than he could ever remember.

Afterwards, Boomer MacHoot helped the authorities to piece the accident together. "Never could fathom Tadpole," he told them. "Saw in the paper Alan Shearer supposed to have been in a fight in Dublin. A fight! Then the phone rings from Shearer's people, saying 'ignore it, nothing in it.' Still, what a turn up! Naturally, I dashed in to Tadpole to give him the news. 'Shearer's done something interesting!' I call, as I enter."

"Tragic waste, really," MacHoot says, gathering Tadpole's papers.

"Had Tadpole all lined up for David Platt's *Bumper Book of Old Truisms* after this? And now he'll never know."

# Makes you want to hold your nose

The Ship of Fools is leaving on time this year and the usual stragglers are hanging about the jetty. The sun is always on the look-out for people who can make the journey that bit more interesting and he may have found a proper little mate in a woman by the name of Pilling, who represents the Football Supporters' Association.

Now, for all I know, Pilling may be a good sort, and a splendid turn at the Christmas pantomime, if such an august body ever lowers its guard, but the performance she gave on BBC News the other day brought to mind Bertie Wooster, who inspected his mind and found that "it boggled".

Invited to comment on a silly piece in the *Daily Star*, which said that English fans should give the "Frogs" a good hiding this summer because the French authorities had bungled the allocation of World Cup tickets, Miss P got in a fearful bate. If anything untoward happened over there, she spluttered, the *Star* would bear a heavy responsibility.

All right, the piece was infantile, but the poor dear needn't worry. To heed the paper's advice it is first necessary to be able to read, and the *Star* supplies evidence daily that not everybody can. If she really thinks that newspapers can prod otherwise well-behaved people into "acting up" on foreign soil, then she has not absorbed the violent lessons of the past 25 years.

The view that if fans can't get tickets then trouble will follow, and the troublemakers cannot be held responsible for the mayhem, is the

**MICHAEL HENDERSON**



kind of tosh that finds favour with the new tribe of "fanalysts". To a person they seem oddly ignorant of the fact that a significant minority of supporters will cause trouble, wherever they go – and, as night follows day, they will always blame somebody or something else: too much hospitality, not enough hospitality, lenient policing, heavy-handed policing. There will be trouble in France this summer for one simple reason: plenty of "fans" will leave about their intent on causing it.

Nobody who watches football regularly in this country can doubt that many of the people who play, manage, administer and watch it make you want to hold your nose. Come on, Miss Pilling, let's get you in that boat.

## Double-double Gary trouble

You might imagine that getting Santayana and Gary Newbon on the same page, never mind the same sentence, to be beyond the wit of man. Think again. Every time Newbon appears on the box it is tempting to remember Santayana's observation of Rousseau's *Confessions*, that it's violent candour with ignorance of self in equal measure.

Newbon doesn't lack candour, that's for sure, though what he feels candid about is hard to define. His "questions" to Alex Ferguson after Manchester United's dreadful game in Monaco on Wednesday were: "You must have been proud of that battling performance." "Your Norwegian centre backs were marvellous tonight." "It was a good result tonight." In each case he made a statement de-

signed to flatter his subject, like a commoner craving a boon from a medieval monarch.

The ignorance of self is the easier bit by far, for Newbon clearly doesn't realise how absurd he appears. This is the man, after all, who once introduced himself to a stranger as "the most famous man in the Midlands" and now traps unwary footballers at the end of their 90 minutes when they have unremarkable thoughts to impart.

Why, in any case, do TV people think viewers must be taken "backstage" at a time when the participants are trying to come to terms with their performance. Nobody grabs Macbeth in the wings and says: "The witches did you proud tonight".

"What! What have I done? Look out, Stratford! A man with an awful smirk is heading your way."

vision, that promiscuous bedmate of the professional game, may try to kid viewers that "the atmosphere is terrific", but those who watch football live know better. Much of the time it is mephitic.

At Leeds last Saturday a city-centre pub hosted a knot of fans who chanted "no surrender to the IRA", and bellowed the horrible chant about the Munich air crash. A friend who watched Manchester United away to Chelsea endured supporters abusing Irwin (he's Irish), Schmeichel (he's good), Cole (he's black), Sheringham (he used to play for Spurs) and Beckham (he goes out with somebody famous, apparently). "At the end of the game, I felt deflated," my friend said. "I wanted to read a book or look at some paintings, just to remind myself I was human."

In the late Sixties, that wonderful man John Arlott gave up reporting football because, as he put it, "the game became seedy". Many years later he told me: "There are some good men in football but they're outnumbered about 200 to one."

Football didn't bother then about driving men like Arlott from the game and it doesn't bother now. It has sponsors to bow to, television executives to scrape and a few thousand troglodytic fans to belch approval, so it swaggers about like a playground bully.

It's a wonderful game, football,

despite everything. It's just a pity that so many of the people who play, manage, administer and watch it make you want to hold your nose. Come on, Miss Pilling, let's get you in that boat.

Michael Atherton is one of

nature's Horatios who, Shakespearians will recall, earned Hamlet's commendation for being

"a man that fortune's buffets and

rewards hast taken with equal thanks". He is not greatly moved

by praise, or deflected by criticism,

and as he has just become the first

man to captain England in 50

Tests, he could be said to have

triumphed over those who are less

constant.

He would be less than human,

however, were he not to blanch,

from time to time at the stuff that is

written about him and the team he

leads. Two weeks ago, when

England won a dramatic Test in

Trinidad to square the series at 1-1,

he was a pukka chap, a glorious

leader. Now, depending on which

paper you read, he is "Captain

Calamity" and "Pop Athers".

Of course, he was entirely to

blame for the defeat in Guyana,

which again puts England on the

back foot; he lost the toss; the silly

mutt! Anyway, when fielders drop

catches as England did, there isn't

a right lot the poor old skipper can do.

Being a Test captain is no job for

faint-hearts. Sachin Tendulkar,

the finest batsman in the world,

admitted defeat after little more

than a year of leading India. Even

Mark Taylor, a brilliant captain,

had a terrible time of it until he

found some form last summer. In

his case Australia were good

enough to carry him through.

How good would Atherton be if he

had Shane Warne to bowl for him?

The most mysterious captain's

business of all concerns Wasim

Akram, who surrendered the Paki-

stan job to protect his family, after

receiving death threats, and then

found himself demoted to the

team altogether. Wasim, the great-

est bowler of his kind in the history

of the game! Relatedly called up to

South Africa, he returned to their

side yesterday with this ringing

endorsement from a team-mate:

"We don't need him."

So, here are two wishes for the

coming week: Michael Atherton to

make a hundred and England to

win in Barbados; Wasim Akram to

scatter South African stumps all

over Port Elizabeth!

**Noble cause demanding respect of rugby folk**

Paul Ackford has turned in his rugby jersey for a word processor more nobly than most former players, but he got one thing spectacularly wrong last week. What the blazes are England doing playing the other British teams, he wanted to know, when they could be testing themselves against South Africa and the All Blacks?

Leaving aside for a moment the fact that England went through a full-scale international engagement before Christmas, is he seriously urging the abandonment of the Five Nations Championship? This is an annual ritual dedicated to the noble cause of cheering us all up and the churl wants to scrap it on grounds of (yes, you've guessed) "irrelevance".

Of course, if England care only about beating the best teams in the world, then it is in their interests to play sides from the southern hemisphere regularly. But if that is all the game means in the brave new professional world, it is an admission of defeat. There used to be a fellowship of rugby, irrespective of who happened to be the best side at any one moment, and if my experience of the recent Ireland-Scotland game is anything to go by, that fellowship survives even England and France's top-doggerry.

Let's take Ackford at his word. If he really wants to cast aside the lower orders, he shouldn't be surprised if France, South Africa and New Zealand say to England: "Sorry, lads, but we really don't think you're up to playing us." The Five Nations may be a second-rate competition in global terms but, as England are a second-rate team, that is surely where they belong.

In Paris today, and at Wembley, which Wales must call home for the time being, the bonds of history will be renewed. Long may it be so. These weekends, which are primarily about sport, are also about the gifts of comradeship and friendly rivalry that sport bestows. However good or indifferent the match, there are plenty of compensations. Where would you rather spend a rugby weekend: Paris or Durban? Edinburgh or Bristol? Dublin or Auckland? And no fibbing.

□ Danny Baker returns next week



## The slings and arrows of outrageous comment

### EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

## WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB



Full race results will appear in The Times on Friday

### ENTER FANTASY FORMULA ONE TODAY

You could win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB by entering a team in our Fantasy Formula One competition, which goes live with tomorrow's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. This dream machine has a top speed of 155mph and does 0-60 in 6.6 secs. Second prize is a trip for two to the 1999 Australian Grand Prix. Third prize is a trip for two to the 1999 Monaco Grand Prix. Entry lines are open now to register for the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos on Sunday March 29 – the first of six races that carry up to 600 bonus points for correctly predicting any of

the first three drivers to finish. Choose your fantasy team with care. Bad driving and failing to finish will incur penalties.

Readers who have already entered the competition can obtain a comprehensive breakdown of their team's performance in tomorrow's race using our new faxback service which is available from Tuesday. For details of this service see The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Full details of the competition and terms and conditions were published in The Times on Monday.

### HOW TO ENTER

Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK and Irish Republic can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0891 40 50 01 (+44 990 100 311 ROI). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Brazilian Grand Prix. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

### MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

#### GROUP A DRIVERS

- 01 Damon Hill
- 02 Michael Schumacher
- 03 David Coulthard
- 04 Giancarlo Fisichella

#### GROUP B DRIVERS

- 12 Alexander Wurz
- 13 Ralf Schumacher
- 14 Jarno Trulli
- 15 Johnny Herbert

#### GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS

- 23 Williams
- 24 Ferrari
- 25 Benetton

#### GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

- 26 McLaren
- 27 Jordan
- 28 Prost

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01

+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

© 1998 Times Newspapers Ltd

### TENNIS

## Graf setting out to regain position of dominance

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN INDIAN WELLS,  
CALIFORNIA

of Thailand, or María Sánchez

Lorenzo, of Spain.

Her sparring partners of old

are not present – Arantxa

Sánchez Vicario and Mary Joe

Fernandez have both withdrawn

because of injury, while Monica Seles pulled out

last week for "personal reasons". So Graf has been left on her own to deal with the new order.

Still, the signs are good. Mirjana Lucic, has practised

with Graf a couple of times

this week, meetings that drew

crowds of several hundred.

One of their number,

Mirjana Lucic, has practised

with Graf a couple of times

this week, meetings that drew

Noble cause  
demanding  
respect of  
rugby folk

SPORT  
Pension  
paid to  
champions

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 7 1998

SPORT 35



Kevin Eason in Melbourne sees the speedy return of an invisible man

## Schumacher takes alternative route

We should have known better than to believe the man with the straightest face in sport. Two days ago Michael Schumacher breezed into town — the last driver to arrive for the Australian Grand Prix — and promptly announced there was little chance that he could win the first race of the season. Twenty-four hours later he searched around the Albert Park circuit in the fastest practice time.

There was barely a hint of irony in his voice, not a flicker of a smile when he then announced afterwards that, actually, his Ferrari still needed to be developed before it would be ready to carry him to victory.

It is impossible to see what is going on inside the German's head, to read the mood of the only driver of the present crop who warrants entry into the pantheon of Formula One. Saying that he has no chance is a deliberate diversion from a man who arrived here with a mild dose of flu would have told his rivals he was suffering from yellow fever if he thought that it would give him a psychological advantage.

This week has been even more difficult than usual for Schumacher watchers, mainly because he has been close to invisible at a time when race drivers are usually omnipresent in newspapers, magazines and on television. Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion, has appeared on just about every news bulletin for the past five days.

Every interviewer has asked the same question: "What do you think of Michael Schumacher?" The German, it seems, overshadows the whole Formula One circus.



"It was great to start working again. Now I am just looking forward to racing".

Maybe Schumacher decided that absence might make hearts grow fonder. Maybe it was best to leave Villeneuve off the talking about that incident in Jerez last season?

Schumacher is clearly tired of the subject, particularly when asked by one interviewer whether he would be prepared to cut Villeneuve off at a corner again. Schumacher replied: "Wait and see." Anything more could simply be twisted into yet another in a succession of rows.

Perhaps he was right, then, to lay low instead of presenting himself as a target for criticism, for the subject of his deliberate shunt into Villeneuve at the European Grand Prix — which led to him being stripped of his second place in the championship — seemed to have evaporated yesterday as the business of racing took over.

Words will not repair the damage to Schumacher's reputation, but watching him out on the damp circuit mastering a skittish Ferrari while others struggled it was difficult to mask admiration for a man so clearly a master of his craft, the best in the world.

"I had a long time off from driving, then started in January. It was great to start working again," he said. "As soon as I started, I loved the way the car handled and I felt the satisfaction from driving and now I am just looking forward to racing again."

That is the essence of the man. Pundits here have been wondering whether he would have the same lust for victory since he recently acquired the duties of husband and father. Others sneer that the richest man in Formula One can afford to relax on the £20 million a year Ferrari are reportedly paying him. That is to misjudge him. At 29, he is at the peak of his powers and stands on the threshold of history if he can bring Ferrari its first world title since 1983.

He has been with the team for two seasons and came close to the drivers' title last year in a car clearly inferior to the winning Williams.

This year, though, he has the new F300 developed by Rory Byrne and Ross Brawn, who guided him to his two world titles at Benetton, and the burden of the expectation of Luca di Montezemolo, the Ferrari chairman, who clearly believes that he is due a dividend from his massive investment in the German.

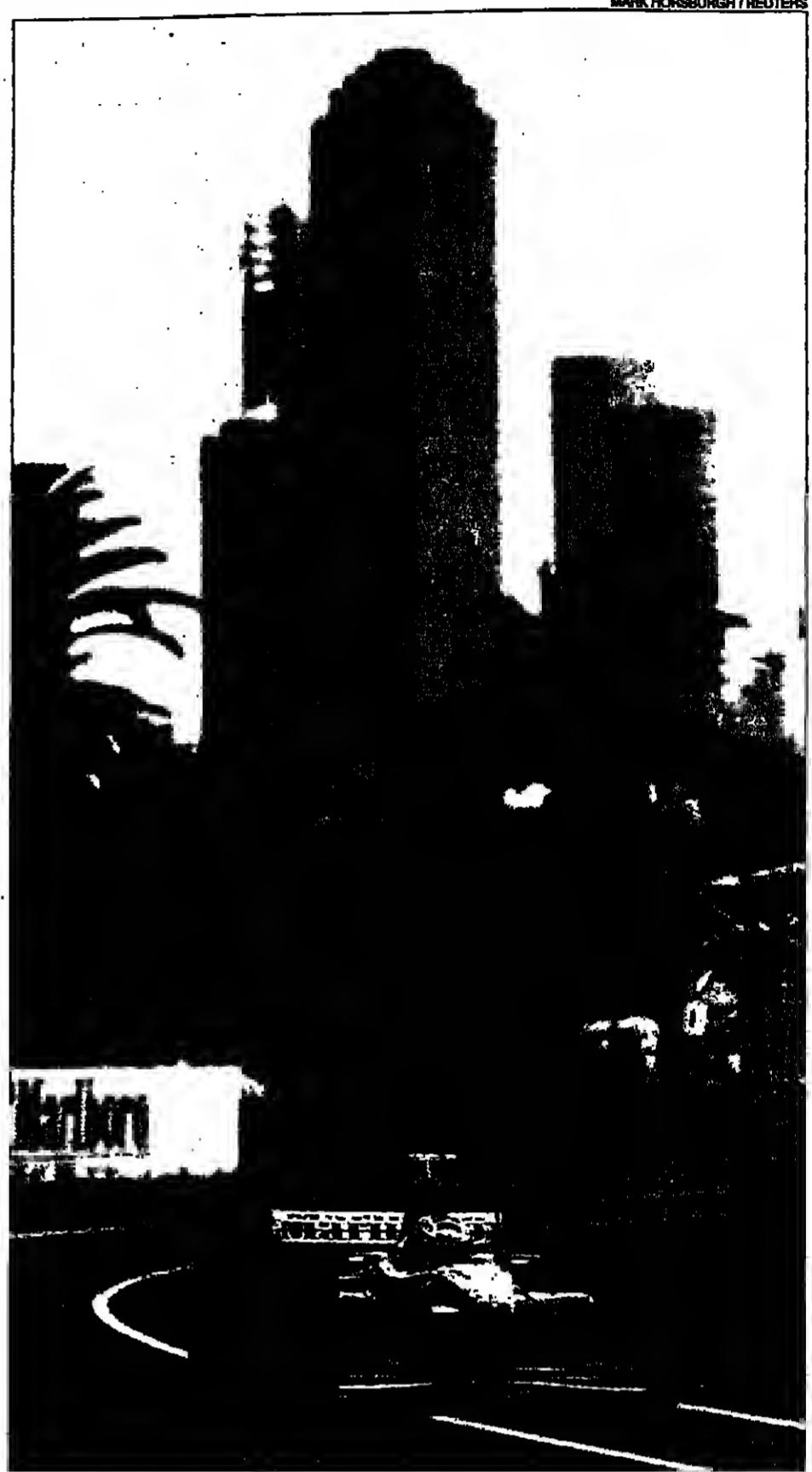
Schumacher still refused to talk up his chances yesterday.

Chewing on an orange as he snuffed through his head cold, he said that the true form guide would only be written once the weekend was over.

"We know we have done a good job on the car," he said.

"Whether it is good enough I am still not sure, but it's close and we are developing it all the time so I am sure we will get there."

Then again, why believe a word that the man says? Schumacher will, as usual, be at his most convincing on the track this year and there is every chance that memories of the villain of 1997 will be erased by the performances of 1998.



Towering performance: Schumacher begins to rebuild his reputation in Melbourne

## Rivals attempt to put brake on new McLaren

FROM KEVIN EASON

THE first day of the Formula One season started with controversy as six teams joined forces to criticise a new brake system developed by the McLaren team.

Cars had barely turned a wheel before team managers were putting their heads together to complain about the design of the new McLaren. Much is expected of the Woking-based team and Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard immediately obliged with fast practice times.

According to suspicious engineers in some team garages, their speed and poise could be partially attributed to a new braking system. A second pedal allows the drivers to control the amount of braking to both front wheels, enabling them to keep their cars balanced.

By last night the Stewart, Jordan, TWR Arrows, Sauber, Benetton and Ferrari teams had signed a letter of protest to officials of the FIA, Formula One's ruling body. The FIA has already ruled the system legal, however, and showed no signs of backing down. There are thought to be other teams either with a similar system in place or in the process of developing one.

Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, said that plans for the designs were sent to the FIA for inspection and approved long before the cars went into production.

David Richards, head of the Benetton team, criticised the innovation because it could force other teams to follow suit, raising their costs as they battled to narrow McLaren's advantage. "If that happens, then we have to justify its validity," he said.

Significantly, Williams, who won the constructors' championship last season, have not signed up to the protest, which was apparently inspired by Ferrari, McLaren's arch rivals. If the McLarens continue to perform well here this weekend, the chances are high that an official complaint will be made, forcing the FIA to take action.

### DETAILS

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, FW18) 1:35.22sec; 2, M Hakkinen (Fin, Williams) 1:35.22sec; 3, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:35.27; 4, A. Wurz (Aust, Benetton) 1:35.27; 5, R. Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:35.40; 6, R. Mansell (GB, Williams) 1:35.47; 7, A. Prost (Fr, Sauber) 1:35.65; 8, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:35.72; 9, J. Trulli (It, Prost) 1:35.75; 10, H.-H. Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 1:35.74; 11, M. Salo (Fin, Williams) 1:35.75; 12, S. Nakajima (Jpn, Williams) 1:35.75; 13, O. Niss (GB, Jordan) 1:35.76; 14, D. Pirro (Fr, Prost) 1:35.76; 15, R. Rosset (Fr, Jordan) 1:35.77; 16, G. Berger (Aust, Williams) 1:35.78; 17, E. Irvin (GB, Ferrari) 1:35.81; 18, P. Diniz (Br, TWR Arrows) 1:35.82; 19, T. Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:35.87; 20, G. Berger (Aust, Williams) 1:35.88; 21, S. Nakajima (Jpn, Williams) 1:35.94; 22, E. Nakajima (Jpn, Minardi) 2:16.00.

candidly admitted yesterday. He was "getting the hang of it," he promised, managing to keep the engine running after a couple of early excursions into grass and gravel.

The day did not start too well either for Formula One's youngest competitor, Esteban Tuero, 19, took his Minardi out on to a Formula One track for the first time in the morning practice session and promptly came to grief at the fourth corner. The afternoon was hardly any better: just one lap completed. Things can only improve.

SOMETIMES YOU'LL  
WISH IT WAS LESS



Racing  
SIMULATION

Several racing games are lining up on the grid. But only one has received rave reviews for its thrilling realism, brilliant split screen action and breathtaking accuracy. Developed with Renault F1 engineers, only F1 Racing Simulation puts you totally in the driving seat.

Available Now!

PC CD-ROM



www.ubisoft.co.uk

Copyright 1998 Ubi Soft Entertainment Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by Formula One Administration Limited. Windows 95® is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO

TV TELEVISION: Qualifying Saturday 1.15pm, Race 1.55pm, Sunday (live)

11.15am Sunday (replay), 12.15pm Sunday (highlights)

RADIO 5 LIVE: 2.00am Sunday (live)

YOUTH FROM ONE PRINCIPLE

## FOOTBALL SATURDAY

David Powell on a team seeking their ninth consecutive win

# Queen of Plainmoor relishes high life

If Torquay United had been as successful as the personalities in and around the club lately, there would have been little to worry about. Garry Nelson, best-selling author and Torquay player/assistant-coach last season, Helen Chamberlain, Sky football presenter and Torquay fanatic. So much publicity, so little to celebrate.

Suddenly, though, the locals are wondering if there is some mistake on the football map, similar to those which can be found in the new holiday brochure for neighbouring Teignmouth. A photo reversal shows the resort the wrong way round and a 700-year-old village moved from north to south of the river. Glance at the Nationwide League third division table and it looks upside down.

Torquay, instead of occupying their usual place at the southern end, are up north. Two seasons ago, they would have dropped out of the League had Stevenage Borough, the Vauxhall Conference champions, had their ground up to standard on time. Last season, Torquay finished only three points ahead of relegated Hereford United.

As Reg Longman, a Torquay supporter for 51 years, put it while watching the 1-0 victory over Cardiff City 1-0 on Tuesday: "I bet, at the start of this season, 95 per cent of supporters thought we would go down. We were poor last

year and we did not have a penny to spend."

However, after a club-record eight successive league wins, the Gulls are flying. Victory over lowly Cambridge United today would edge them closer to the record of 14 consecutive League wins shared by Manchester United, Bristol City and Preston North End. Five of Torquay's next six matches are against opposition from the lower half of the table.

One worry, though: Kevin Hodges, the coach, has been named third division manager of the month for February. The last time Hodges received the award, 17 months ago, Torquay fell

from sixth to 21st place.

Until this season, Hodges worked in a coaching team with Nelson, who drew on his experiences at Torquay to pen *Left Foot In The Grave*, his follow-up to *Left Foot Forward*. To Chamberlain, the graveyard has been an irresistible place. Co-host of *Soccer AM*, the four-hour Saturday morning programme on Sky Sports 2, she rarely misses a match, rushing straight from the studio.

Rushing so fast that she was trapped twice for speeding and banned. "The lady who does so much for Torquay United," the man on the mike said as Chamberlain strutted onto the pitch at half-time against Cardiff. She used to feed sea lions at Chessington World of Adventures, was a Bluecoat ent-



Chamberlain rushes straight from the television studios to see Torquay United play

tainer for Pontin's, but nothing has endured like her love of Torquay United.

It began while she was working as a local disc jockey and she returned to her musical roots on Tuesday, phoning three fellow drummers to take their instruments into the

to have the club crest tattooed in a private place if the team reaches the play-offs, though she is hoping for automatic promotion. "Then I might get out of it," she said.

Days such as these are rare in Torquay's history. There is not much to beat by way of

achievement: runners-up in the Sherpa Van Trophy final at Wembley in 1989, winning promotion at Wembley in the old third division in 1991.

Sad, then, that Mike Bateson, the club's owner, no longer attends matches and is

trying to sell. He stood down

as chairman after abuse from

supporters. Mervyn Benney,

Bateson's successor, said that

little has changed in the way

the club is run and that

success has been built on

collective spirit.

Such as when Leon

Happgood was prevented from

sharing in win bonuses,

because he is an apprentice,

and the other players had a

whip-round; or when Rodney

Jack, the club's leading scorer,

heard that Torquay had rejected

a £300,000 offer from

Crewe Alexandra and shook

Hodges' hand to thank him.

While the club has risen,

and Hodges has groomed a

winning team on a tight

budget, the overraft has been

cut by 25 per cent to some

£300,000. For the visit of

Cardiff, it was a filthy night —

howling wind and driving

rain — and Benney was not

expecting a miracle at the gate.

"We have got one side

and that is half our trouble,"

he said, explaining low attendances. "They do not come in by boat and it is a bit rough tonight."

Still, 3,358 arrived, just 15

months after gates had slipped

dangerously close to three

figures. With a bang on the

drum, the Torquay ship kept a

steady course. And all who

sailed in her were looking

forward, no doubt, to seeing

the promised tattoo when they

reach dock.

# Toby Tyke and the mask of mystery

Mark Hodkinson studies the case of the Oakwell mascot

**A**s assignments go, it should be easy enough. It's not like asking Chris Sutton to autograph an England shirt or Gordon Strachan to list his favourite referees.

Toby Tyke, please, is the request. "Hmmm, now you're asking," is the response. Toby is the official mascot of Barnsley FC and, while the club is new additions to the FA Carling Premiership, Toby has been in the elite since he first strutted (walking is for cissies) onto the Oakwell pitch four years ago.

Toby, see, is not one of those lightweight, fairy-cake mascots that shuffle apologetically along the perimeter fence. He is the authentic Yorkshire tyke — irreverent, energetic, drunk on life; if he's not barking in your face, he's barking at the moon.

His antics have made the front page of the *Daily Sport* and the club has twice issued missives calling for a tad more decorum. All the same, he is much loved at Oakwell; in fact, his colour photograph is in more demand at the Reds Superstore than most of the players'.

If a superstar is measured by his degree of availability, Toby is Barnsley's answer to Prince or Bruce Springsteen. "You'll have to put the request to Michael," the receptionist said. Michael is Michael Spinks, the club's general manager/secretary no less, and self-appointed dog-handler. Calls to him remain unreturned and a trip to Oakwell proves fruitless despite Toby's presence at the ground. "He won't see you until Michael says it's OK." Spinks is on the phone and then has a meeting. It is all academic anyway, Toby has scarpered.

Finally, on Spinks's blind side, Toby is tracked down — only by phone, mind. "You won't put to my real name will you?" he asked nervously.

Instinctively, I ask him to

wait while I draw the blinds and check the tip of my umbrella for unusual substances.

Antonymy is promised and *The Artist Actually Known As Toby (TAAKAT)* turns out to be a charming, guileless 19-year-old who, when not dressed as a dog, albeit one who stands on two legs and wears a football kit, works as a barber in Barnsley. The mascot job is great for me," he explained. "I like messing about and acting the prat. When I go out with my mates on a Friday night there's always someone losing an eyeball or something."

His notoriety owes much

a letter to the paper and said I'd set a bad example and all the kids would start doing the same thing now," he said. Horror videos, violent computer games, Toby Tyke — their influence should be monitored.

Most of the time, Toby is a lovable rascal and his adoration is such that he is invited to birthday parties around the town. "I've seen other mascots and they're not a patch on me. They don't do half the stuff I do," he said. Loftus the Lion, Bolton Wanderers' fury, talisman, is similarly triumphal, I professed. Toby has more portentous news on the Loftus front.

"I heard he got pork pies thrown at him at a recent match. You've got to watch that, it's important to know just how to treat the away fans."

One imagines a special relationship between a man and his mascot suit. When the performance is over and the suit is propped up lifeless and still, is there a moment of quiet reflection? "You're too knackered to feel owt, you sweat a right lot." The suit is due for replacement soon and the new one will be a different hue of brown. The children who watch his every swagger will be informed that Toby has had a bath and is showing his true colours.

**T**he Artist Actually Known As Toby (TAAKAT) does not receive payment for his services but has a seat reserved in an executive box. The offer of wages would be declined anyway; he's delighted to walk the hallowed turf and to support the club in such a unique way. He has two scrapbooks filled with cuttings about Toby Tyke and his bedroom wall is a shrine to this man-sized dog.

A photograph, perhaps of TAAKAT in the half-light next to his suit, would at least show there is someone in there. The request is turned down. A local hack offers empathy. "I found myself saying to someone at the club, 'come on, you know as well as I do that there is a bloke in there.'

There is indeed a bloke in there, but such is the enigma surrounding Toby Tyke he may soon prefer to linger outside the butchers rather than the barbers. The staff at Barnsley should be afraid, very afraid, of meddling with half-man, half-dog legends.



Toby Tyke: more than a figure of fun

## 'Chamberlain has twice been caught speeding to matches'

stands at Plainmoor after a long abstention. "I have rallied them back together tonight because the team was winning and we had been chewing our fingers," Chamberlain said. "Seven wins in a row and the crowd were quiet."

Chamberlain has promised

achievement: runners-up in the Sherpa Van Trophy final at Wembley in 1989, winning promotion at Wembley in the old third division in 1991.

Sad, then, that Mike

Bateson, the club's owner, no

longer attends matches and is

trying to sell. He stood down

as chairman after abuse from

supporters. Mervyn Benney,

Bateson's successor, said that

little has changed in the way

the club is run and that

success has been built on

collective spirit.

Such as when Leon

Happgood was prevented from

sharing in win bonuses,

because he is an apprentice,

and the other players had a

whip-round; or when Rodney

Jack, the club's leading scorer,

heard that Torquay had rejected

a £300,000 offer from

Crewe Alexandra and shook

Hodges' hand to thank him.

While the club has risen,

and Hodges has groomed a

winning team on a tight

budget, the overraft has been

cut by 25 per cent to some

£300,000. For the visit of

Cardiff, it was a filthy night —

howling wind and driving

rain — and Benney was not

expecting a miracle at the gate.

"We have got one side

and that is half our trouble,"

he said, explaining low attendances. "They do not come in by boat and it is a bit rough tonight."

Still, 3,358 arrived, just 15

months after gates had slipped

dangerously close to three

figures. With a bang on the

drum, the Torquay ship kept a

steady course. And all who

sailed in her were looking

forward, no doubt, to seeing

the promised tattoo when they

reach dock.

**V**ialli's tactical triumphs prove more than beginner's luck

**N**apoleo would have made Gianluca Vialli a marshal. His well-known question, before promoting any of his generals, was: "Is he lucky?" Vialli, in his first four matches as player-manager of Chelsea, seems to have proved that, on the big occasions at least, the force is with him.

In the Coca-Cola Cup, Arsenal, who should have annihilated Chelsea at Highbury but won only 2-1, were brushed aside in the return at Stamford Bridge. Vialli's first game in charge, and Chelsea were at Wembley.

After two mediocre league performances, against Leicester City and Manchester United, on to Seville, where pessimism among the travelling press corps about the outcome of the Cup Winners' Cup game seemed endemic, through nothing in Real Betis's own league form suggested they were monsters.

There was scepticism, too, about Vialli's credentials as a manager. In his native Italy, after all, he would not even be allowed on the bench because he has not gained the requisite certificate.

Is he, as the sceptics think, a cynical appointment, a little like that of his flamboyant predecessor, Ruud Gullit, put there largely for his symbolic value, the great player who might attract other such stars

great tradition of 3-5-2, which he had so carefully inculcated in every one of the club's teams.

# Lampard and son maintain family business

West Ham beginning to reap the benefit of a taxing inheritance

**O**nce, before they realised just what a talent Frank Lampard Jr might be, there were those that accused him of trading off the good name of his father. It hurt him deeply at the time. He was only 18. Now he is older and wiser and ready to admit that, in one respect, the detractors had a point. "When mum called out 'Frank,'" he smiled, "I used to ignore her and pretend it was dad she was after. Mind you, I think he did the same."

On the other side of the dressing-room at West Ham United's training ground at Chadwell Heath, across a floor littered with mud and a host of wet towels, his father laughs, too. His son calls him "my biggest fan and my biggest critic". Their relationship could be a model for fathers and sons everywhere, one that exudes warmth, mutual support and respect, and has yielded a host of positive results.

Only for a few months back in the midst of last season, when Frank Jr was struggling to break into the team and his father was impatient for him to be given his chance rather than just dip his toe in the water, did it seem for the first time as though they were being persecuted for being father and son. Even that did not last for long.

After young Frank scored a hat-

trick in West Ham's Coca-Cola Cup drubbing of Walsall last November, and a subsequent run of fine performances in the centre of midfield, those who had been criticising Lampard Sr, Harry Redknapp's No 2, at Upton Park, and hinting — as people once did with John and Kevin Bond and Brian and Nigel Clough — that nepotism was responsible for his elevation to the first-team squad, were forced into a collective volte-face.

Their embarrassment was compounded when Frank Jr, who is still only 19, received a call-up to the England B squad for the game against Chile at The Hawthorns. He was brought on as a first-half substitute and was one of the few to impress. Those who had written him off because he was his father's son are now thanking Lampard Sr for bringing the boy up a West Ham fan.

For all those who know both men, who realise that, just like that other father and son combination, Harry and Jamie Redknapp, the Lampards are two of the most genuine, down-to-earth people in football, the son a credit to his proud father and both men full of a natural courtesy and affability that deserved a better response, it was a gratifying turnaround. For Lampard Jr, it was a relief, too.

"I was 18 at the time I started getting all the stick," he said. "It is hard for someone that age to take it because you have got no experience."

"I wasn't as thick-skinned as I am now. But I have come out the other side stronger. I am able to handle things now. It might be a good thing because it has made me a stronger personality."

"You try to ignore the criticism but that little bit can hurt you and it did. The fact was that I had always been a West Ham fan and I had always wanted to play for them. But there was a few comments I was told about, a few mumbblings. The point was that I had not proved any of them wrong because I had only just broken into the team; but this year it is a different story."

"If I get any stick about my old man getting me in the team, I can just point to the England B caps and the goals and that is all the proof I need. As dad always says: 'Let your football do the talking' and it has. It is the best way to shut that minority up."

His father started pushing him to follow in his footsteps when he was 6. Lampard Sr had a distinguished career with West Ham, winning the FA Cup with them in 1980, when they beat Arsenal, their opponents tomorrow in a quarter-final at Highbury, in the final. His finest hour came when he scored a back-post header after a cross from Trevor Brooking to take the east

able to do otherwise in life. I thought if he [Frank Jr] was good enough to come through as a player, then the rewards are there."

"I think he will go on to surpass what I achieved as a player. He is going the right way. He is 19 and he has played for England B. I was a full back and I have always stressed to Frank that he should be more of an attacking player

of plaudits, and even being mentioned as an outside bet for a place in Glenn Hoddle's final 22 for the World Cup."

"Part of the reason for the progress I have made," he said, "is that I made a conscious effort at one stage when I was 17 that I needed to add more to my game. I could always hit the pass and be neat and tidy but that extra bit of scoring

Face values: the footballing world has learnt to respect the Lampards as much for their charm as for their undoubted sporting talents. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

**6 If I get any stick about my old man getting me in the team, I can just point to the England B caps and the goals ?**

London club past Everton in the semi-final replay.

"I come from Canning Town," Frank Sr said. "It is right on the doorstep for the club. In those days, times were hard and one way out of it was to become a footballer. All my mates at school; all we wanted to be was footballers."

"I just felt that I had done all right and that football had given me the chance to experience things and places I wouldn't have been

because it is always the midfielders and the strikers who get all the accolades."

Now, of course, those accolades are starting to flood in. After spending much of last season on the substitutes' bench, labouring to establish himself while Kieron Ferdinand, the other outstanding product of the new West Ham Academy, was being praised to the skies and touted as the best young player in the country, he is getting his share

of plaudits, and even being mentioned as an outside bet for a place in Glenn Hoddle's final 22 for the World Cup."

"I think he will go on to surpass what I achieved as a player. He is going the right way. He is 19 and he has played for England B. I was a full back and I have always stressed to Frank that he should be more of an attacking player

Rio getting all the praise and getting in the side and I thought: 'I want that,' and I went for it."

"I pulled my finger out over the summer and I came back determined to get my own thing going. Now people want to talk to me, reporters want to talk to me, and my face is on the telly. Now both of us are coming through and people are talking about us both."

"I would like to keep the door open to the World Cup in France. I would never say: 'I don't think I am going to get picked.' There are ten games left for the club and if you can perform in the big games for West Ham then you never know who is watching. I just have to keep performing for the club and if we could get to the FA Cup Final in my first full season that would be fantastic."

"Before he gets up to go, he says he does not remember much of his dad's career, which ended in 1986 when he was 8. 'Just the bit at the end when he was in the reserves,' he says with a grin.

Across the room, his dad is still smiling.

Fifa shows red card to tackles from behind

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DANGEROUS tackles from behind will be outlawed from the World Cup finals this year and punished with a red card, Fifa, the world governing body, decided yesterday.

The International Football Association Board, the game's ultimate lawmaking body, passed an amendment to the law governing fouls and misconduct that read: "A tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play."

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary, said: "There is only one solution, expulsion, red card. The tackle from behind is the bane of the modern game."

Keween Riddell, the Fifa refereeing instructor, said: "We're now looking at a situation where a player challenges for the ball with one foot but follows through on the man with the other. We want to eliminate brutality."

The Board also agreed to give the Football Association the task of studying the viability of using technical aids to help referees to decide whether the ball has crossed the goal-line. Blatter made it clear that Fifa would not consider technical aids to help with refereeing decisions on any other part of the field of play.

The England women's team play Germany in a World Cup group three qualifying match at Millwall's New Den tomorrow.

ENGLAND: John P. Coyle (Arsenal), R. Brown (Liverpool), C. Dyer (Middlesbrough), N. Butt (Sheffield Wednesday), F. Parker (Sheffield Wednesday), K. Burley (Everton), D. Smith (Sheffield Wednesday), S. Murphy (Sheffield Wednesday), L. Smith (Tottenham Hotspur), K. Davis (Sheffield Wednesday), V. Eley (Derby County), R. Keane (Sheffield Wednesday), Stockport County, M. Garsow (Barnsley City).

## Gross rebukes Klinsmann after row

By MATT DICKINSON

A BATTLE for power, and popularity, within the Tottenham Hotspur dressing-room was the cause of an angry row between Jürgen Klinsmann, the club's German striker, and Christian Gross, the coach, this week that has plunged the relegation-threatened side into fresh crisis.

Klinsmann insisted yesterday that he and Gross would "go in different directions" at the end of the season because of the feud. He was less specific about who he wanted to depart, but it appears certain that the German will leave after Gross exerted his authority with a stern public rebuke last night.

On the surface, the pair's heated exchange after the 1-0 victory against Bolton Wanderers on Sunday was over tactics. Specifically, wants David

Gross, the club chairman, is believed to have put his support behind Gross yesterday as the Swiss

coach issued a blunt put-down to the 33-year-old player. "I have the greatest respect for what Jürgen has done in a long and successful international career, but he is still a squad member and has to accept my decisions about

who I play and where I play them," Gross said. "We still have nine crucial games and I need a very positive attitude from him. When Jürgen rejoined us, it was very clear that he was coming here for six months to help us out of our problems and it is that that we and all our fans now need."

Klinsmann, despite his popular image, has never been shy about airing his views on tactics and colleagues' abilities and that has led to disagreements at previous clubs. He claimed yesterday, however, that Sugar had encouraged him to speak his mind.

When I came over, one thing Alan Sugar asked me for was my input and that is what I have done, telling them [Gross and the players] what we should change and what we should do better," he said.

"I have put a lot of energy doing that but I have had no

feedback. I have reached the point where I have to stop in order to concentrate on my own game."

"Christian and I have totally different opinions about things. But I just don't want any more of this stuff going on. He is the manager and I respect that, even if I do have different ideas."

Tottenham's problems have jeopardised Klinsmann's chances of leading Germany in the World Cup this summer. His prospects could sink further if he is dropped, a likely outcome of his row with Gross.

■ Newcastle United's preparations for their FA Cup quarter-final at home to Barnsley tomorrow received a setback when Keith Gillespie, their winger, was arrested in connection with an alleged incident at a Gateshead hotel on February 15.

**Beck dismissed by Lincoln after going missing**

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

SACKING season or silly season? Either way, John Beck of Lincoln City, joined the growing list of departed managers yesterday when he was dismissed by the Nationwide League third division club. He is the 33rd manager in England and Scotland to leave since pre-season training got under way in July last year.

Beck left Sincil Bank only two days after the club had said that it could not afford to get rid of him. He spent only four minutes at a board meeting that lasted several hours, after which John Reames, the Lincoln chairman, said: "John Beck will not be in charge of team affairs for the match at Leyton Orient [today]. Shane Westley, his assistant, will be in charge. I cannot say anything further."

It is believed that Beck was relieved of his duties because of disciplinary reasons. He was called before the board to explain why he went missing for five days, without leave of absence, after the game against Cambridge United last month. He was also punished by the club earlier in the season after an alleged assault on Danny Lynn, 17, a trainee at the club. Lynn claimed he had been grabbed by the throat and threatened.

"I'm packing my things and leaving the club but I'm going to appeal against what it does to me," Beck said. "I think it's unfair and unjust. I'm very disappointed with what has happened and the stance the club has taken."

Beck led Cambridge United from the fourth division to the brink of the old first division in 1992, when they lost in the play-off semi-finals to

Leicester City. He took over Lincoln in October 1995, when they were struggling to stay out of the Vauxhall Conference, and guided them to eighth place.

Lincoln finished ninth last season but led the third division in December, helped by an unbeaten run of 18 league and cup matches. Crowds have fallen to just above 2,000 and, on Tuesday night, supporters chanted for Beck's departure during the 1-1 draw against Swansway City.

The Football League is to blow the whistle on the mystery that frequently surrounds the amount of stoppage time referees add on at the end of each half. It has decided to copy its Italian counterparts and tell supporters how many extra minutes will be played.

From next weekend, the referee official will be told by the referee how long will be added on and he will then hold up a substitutes' board to inform fans. The scheme will be implemented on a trial basis until the end of this season, with a view to it coming into operation at the start of the 1998-99 season. It may also be used during the Coca-Cola Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough at Wembley on March 29.

Chris Hull, a League spokesman, said yesterday: "This is a facility that is at present in operation in Serie A matches, but the Football League will pioneer the system in this country and will experiment with it until the end of the season."

### Meaty fee

Tony Cascarino, the Ireland and AS Nancy striker, once famously moved from Crockenhill, of the Kent League, to Gillingham for a set of track-suit tops. Jui Petrovani, bottom of the Romanian second division, finds themselves in much the same boat as Crockenhill and, at present, fearing material transfer fees rather than releases. Thus, Livi Baicea has left in exchange for ground equipment and Ian Radu has moved on for 500 kilos of pork.

■ The draw for the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals and Carlsberg Pub Cup quarter-finals at Lancaster Gate on Monday. Graham Kelly, esteemed chief executive of the Football Association, was kept well away from the trophies.

### Tino's error

Faustino Asprilla's erratic play and timekeeping were features of his brief stay with Newcastle United. Few people knew what to expect from him, and the draw was entrust-ed with doing the honours.

### Video evidence

Nottingham Forest are stepping up their efforts to win legal redress against Anderlecht after the revelations of bribery arising from their UEFA Cup semi-final in 1984. Although it has been admitted

that money was handed to the match referee before the second leg, which the Belgian club won 3-0 to go through 3-2 on aggregate, Forest are preparing a case, collectively and individually, in an attempt to win compensation — either financial or a place in Europe at Anderlecht's expense.

So check out the loft, sort out the cupboards and sift through the kiddies' toy boxes.

Phil Soar, Forest's chief executive, would like to hear from anybody who has a dusty old video of the contentious match in question.

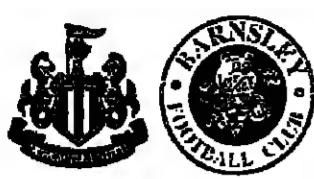
■ STRANGE BUT TRUE: the day after Brian Little resigned as manager of Aston Villa, the following advertisement appeared in the Birmingham Evening Mail: "Aston Villa bench coat, size extra large, superb cond. £45."



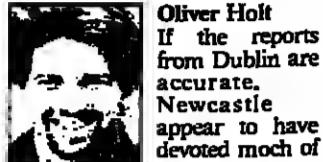
At the event last year, he managed to drop the vase. This year, on the basis that a safer pair of hands was needed, Peter Shilton was entrusted with doing the honours.

## FOOTBALL SATURDAY

## FA CUP QUARTER-FINALS



**NEWCASTLE UNITED**  
v  
**BARNESLEY**  
Tomorrow, 5.00 (sold out)



**Oliver Holt**  
If the reports from Dublin are accurate, Newcastle appear to have devoted much of their preparation for the game tomorrow evening knocking lumps out of each other during a brief sojourn in Ireland. There has been talk of headlocks, right hooks and the hurling of traffic cones. Some might say it is just the right kind of tussle they need for a muscular quarter-final tie against Barnsley.

The Yorkshire side, who have moved up to the edge of the Premiership relegation zone, bundled Manchester United out of the FA Cup in the last round with a physical display at Oakwell that caused the champions to lose their cool collectively. Barnsley are rallying now, improving with every game and such as the troubles at St James' Park that it is still anyone's guess who will progress to the semi-finals.

If Newcastle can put the span between Alan Shearer and Keith Gillespie behind them and rely on the Northern Irishman to supply the crosses that the

England captain thrives on, then Kenny Dalglish's team should be marginal favourites to go through, if only because of home advantage.

With Gary Speed in to bolster the midfield and Shearer gradually recovering his fitness, Dalglish must be hoping for some late season improvements to add a gloss to what has been a desperately disappointing season. The FA Cup represents his last opportunity to salvage something from its ruins and the pressure on him and his team will be intense.

Barnsley are in the mood to profit from any uncertainties in their opponents. They seem to have got their second wind, at last, to have found their feet in the top division and their win over United has bred new confidence in them.

John Hendrie, who scored in both ties against United, appears rejuvenated alongside Ashley Ward; Darren Barnard has proved he has one of the sweetest left feet in the league on the left flank; Neil Redfearn is a fine anchoring player at the heart of midfield and Clint Maree and Martin Bullock can cause problems running at defences.

The tie has got the makings of a vaudeville classic. There is something about it, a feeling, a hunch, that whoever wins will go on to lift the Cup.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED** (6-6-2): S. Goss — S. Parker, P. Potts, R. Barton, K. Gillespie, G. Speed, P. Lee, A. Peters — A. Anderson, A. Shearer.  
**BARNESLEY** (6-3-2): O. Watson — A. de Zeeuw, N. Redfearn, J. Jones — M. Bullock, C. Maree, N. Redfearn, E. Ward, O. Barnard — J. Hendrie, A. Ward.  
Referee: N. Barry.

■ **TELEVISION:** Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 2, from 4pm.  
■ **PREDICTION:** Newcastle to end another romance.



Wild Rovers: Batty and Le Saux are kept apart by Sherwood during Blackburn Rovers' spectacular retreat from Moscow



## BROTHERS IN ARMS

Alan Shearer and Keith Gillespie may not be the first players to find dressing-room harmony elusive. Here are 11 pairs of brothers who discovered a new meaning to 'tuning it off'.

1. David Hirst and Benito Carbone "I preferred you with her long," Hirst allegedly said to Carbone and all hell broke loose.

2. Martin Buchan and Gordon Hill Buchan fulfilled the wishes of every non-Man U fan in the country when he clapped the original "Cocaine Red" around the ear.

3. Graeme Le Saux and David Batty A cold night in Moscow was warmed considerably when the Blackburn pair resorted to fistfights to settle a dispute about the date of the Russian Revolution.

4. Mike Flanagan and Derek Hales The Charlton front men were sent off after they became overheated during a Cup tie against Meldstone at The Valley.

5. Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve McManaman "Now exactly whose fault was it that we conceded that goal?"

6. Graeme Hogg and Craig Levine An argument over a defensive mix-up during a friendly (1) led to both men being sent off, Hogg being shown the red card while he lay on a stretcher.

7. Eric Cantona and Bruno Martin Long before Matthew Simmons, Eric took it out on his own keeper at Auxerre.

8. Tosh McGinnay and Henrik Larsson Another disagreement over hairstyles, this time at Celtic.

9. Brian Laws and Ivano Bonetti The Italian was in stitches at the Grimsby player-manager's half-time oratory.

10. Neil Ruddock and Robbie Fowler "I'm the only lout at this club," Neil said.

11. John Fashanu and Lawrie Sanchez Sanchez alleged that Fash had used martial arts techniques to attack him. Good job it was before Gladiators.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



**ARSENAL**  
v  
**WEST HAM UNITED**  
Tomorrow, 3.00 (sold out)



**Rob Hughes**  
Any team capable of putting Blackburn Rovers out of the FA Cup demands respect, but Harry Redknapp's headache is whether he can field a West Ham United side remotely resembling the real thing for the quarter-final at Highbury. Even allowing for managerial disinformation, West Ham are down to the bare bones.

After the dull draw between the clubs last Monday — blamed on the Upton Park morass — Arsenal have home ground plus the return of Dennis Bergkamp, whose back pain has eased and whose invention is decisive. Additionally, Ray Parlour's strained hamstring feels better each day. So Arsenal are in reasonable shape despite the continued absence of Seaman, Bould and Wright.

West Ham's fortunes rest between the registration office, the medical-room and the sin bin. Trevor Sinclair is Cup-tied. John Hartson's indiscretions rules him out for three games and, though Samassi Abouo returns after his four-match ban for man-handling a referee, he might run the gauntlet of Adams and Keown alone tomorrow.

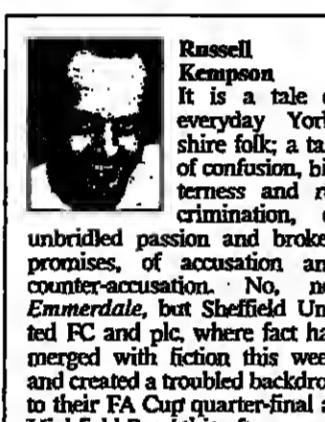
Redknapp, the manager, could ask Paul Kitson, again, to sacrifice himself for the cause, but that goes against advice that Kitson's abductor muscle needs a month to six weeks of rest and rehabilitation. The alternative, Lee Hodges, is St. Sin, born locally and bursting for more than ten minutes to make his name but surely too inexperienced to be thrown to the Arsenal heavies in the week of his twentieth birthday.

The West Ham defence is also suffering. Craig Forrest, the Canada goalkeeper, might reclaim his place from Bernard Lamie but Tim Brecker is unfit. Rio Ferdinand doubtful and David Unsworth, unhappy at speculation that he and his wife are homesick for Merseyside, under treatment for a ligament injury.

Consequently, West Ham will pack midfield, where John Moncur is ready to resume and Eyal Berkovic is fortunate that Emmanuel Petit's appalling late tackle on Monday missed his shins.

**ARSENAL** (probable: 4-4-2): A. Mertens — L. Dent, A. Adams, M. Keown, N. Vierstra — C. Adams, P. Mertens, R. Pires, M. Chester — O. Solskjær, N. Andrade.  
**WEST HAM UNITED** (probable: 3-5-1-1): C. Forrest — S. Potts, J. Pearce, O. Unsworth — A. Impye, S. Lomas, J. Moncur, E. Berkovic, S. Lescano — F. Lampard — S. Abouo.  
Referee: M. Reed.

■ **TELEVISION:** Tomorrow: Live on ITV, from 2.35pm.  
■ **PREDICTION:** Bergkamp to make the difference.



**Russell Kempton**

It is a tale of everyday Yorkshire folk; a tale of confusion, bitterness and retribution, of

unbridled passion and broken promises, of accusation and counter-accusation. No, not *Emmerdale*, but Sheffield United FC and plc, where fact has merged with fiction this week and created a troubled backdrop to their FA Cup quarter-final at Highfield Road this afternoon.

In the first episode, Nigel Spackman, the United manager, resigned his job, after only nine months, in protest at what he considered was lack of support from the boardroom. Episode two included United surrendering their unbeaten home record in the Nationwide League first division, when they lost 1-0 against Ipswich Town, and the resignation of Mike McDonald, the chairman, after he incurred the wrath of the fans.

Episode three has seen Mike McCabe, a director, try to reconstruct the chain of command at Bramall Lane, at the same time as the plc announced a loss of £3.1 million for the six months to December 31. The twist in the plot came when it was revealed that Spackman, who curiously accused Spackman of "lack of bottle", has stepped down.

"Drama only lasts a few hours or days," McCabe said yesterday. "If people have abilities in team management and professional management, they can soon overcome dramas, get back



**COVENTRY CITY**  
v  
**SHEFFIELD UNITED**  
Today, 3.00 (sold out)

to work and start enjoying it again. Nigel conducts himself well. He's a sensible chap and has been prepared to listen. Board members recognise with hindsight that maybe things could have been handled differently. We're in discussions at present with possible appointees for the position of team manager and they include Nigel."

Though clearly making plans for Nigel, United will still have Steve Thompson as acting manager against a Coventry City side seeking its eighth successive victory in league and cup. Thompson will be without Dean Saunders and Roger Nilse, because of injury, and also Ian Rush, Shaun Derry and Jon Cullen, who are Cup-tied.

**COVENTRY CITY** (probable: 4-4-2): S. Parker, P. Johnson, R. Johnson, C. Hill — N. Whelan, P. Teller, G. Boosong, T. E. Solvert — O. Huchtry, V. McDowell.

**SHEFFIELD UNITED** (probable: 4-4-2): A. Kelly — S. McCabe, N. Spackman, L. Sanderson, W. Quinn — V. Borrelli, N. Marler, R. Ford, G. Stuart — G. Taylor, Marco. Referee: S. Dunn.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, BBC1, 10.25pm, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Coventry cruise to eighth successive win.



**Oliver Holt**

On Wednesday

Leeds heaped more trouble on the already rounded shoulders of Christian Gross, when they pushed Tottenham Hotspur towards the foot of the Premiership. Today, at Elland Road, they will send Wolverhampton Wanderers into crisis if they knock them out of the FA Cup.

Wolves' hopes of making the Nationwide League first division play-offs suffered a cruel blow on Wednesday when they were denied a home victory against the bottom club, Stoke City, by a last-minute, scrambled equaliser. More and more, it looks as though the Cup is their last chance of achieving any tangible reward for this season.

They will gain some encouragement from Leeds' surprise exit from the Coca-Cola Cup at the hands of Reading before Christmas, but George Graham's side have not lost their reputation for obstinacy and they must be the favourites to go through to the semi-finals.

In attack, Rod Wallace and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink have rediscovered their form and now that the highly rated Harry Kewell has returned from all manner of adventures with Australia, he has given the Yorkshire side more options going forward.

Their goalkeeper, Nigel Martyn, has been displaying uncharacteristic uncertainty recently, with crucial errors against Newcastle United and Southampton in successive



**LEEDS UNITED**

v

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS**

Today, 3.00 (sold out)

matches and, in Dougie Freedman and Steve Bull, Wolves have strikers who could cause him more problems.

Kirch Curle has been playing through the pain of a foot injury in defence but Wolves can rely on the precocity of Robbie Keane, the 17-year-old Irish midfielder who was given a trial with Leeds two years ago but was ignored and signed for Mark McGhee instead.

He plays the game like a kid," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said of Keane. "It is as if he has gone on the field with his mates, put the jumpers down and just got on with it. But over and above that, he's got ability and an eye for goal and while at his size he gets muscled out of it occasionally, he's not shy of mixing it."

**LEEDS UNITED** (probable: 4-4-2): N. Martyn — A. Meybury, R. Molenaar, M. Heden, I. Harte — G. Helle, L. Bowles, O. Hopkins, H. Kewell — J. P. McErlane, R. Wallace, J. Floyd Hasselbaink.

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS** (probable: 4-4-2): M. Stowell — K. Mucci, K. Curle, O. Richardson, L. Naylor — C. Robinson, R. Keane, S. Osborn, M. Atkins — S. Bull, D. Freedman. Referee: P. Dunn.

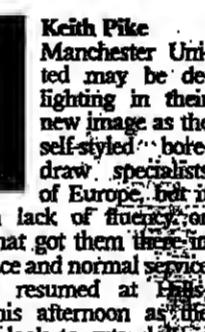
■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Home win.

## ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

## FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



**LIVERPOOL**  
v  
**BOLTON WANDERERS**  
Today, 3.00 (sold out)



**David Maddock**

It has been an interesting week at Anfield, with Steve Harkness the centre of much attention. The Liverpool players, of course, do not believe the allegations against him, but it has not stopped the practical jokes at his expense.

Behind the joking, however, there are doubts about Stan Collymore's motives, brought into sharp focus by a telephone call from the Aston Villa man to a Liverpool player. Collymore suggested that he had not gone to the press with his allegations and, further, had not said the things attributed to him. The forward was not exactly popular in his time at Anfield and there is a feeling around the Merseyside club that this could be his revenge.

Whatever, Harkness will keep his place against Bolton Wanderers today. Liverpool need to show support to their under-fire defender.

Neil Ruddock is slowly returning to fitness, after a heavy Christmas, but is unlikely to figure. Instead, Roy Evans will pin what little faith he has left in the players who lost at Villa Park, with the possible exception of a rare start for Patrick Berger.

There is a danger of Liverpool slipping quietly out of even the reckoning for a UEFA Cup place. For Bolton, the danger is rather more serious. They are firmly anchored in the bottom three and appear to lack the means to do anything about it.

They are still squirming about the decisions that cost them valuable points at Tottenham last week, but then whoever heard of a team at the bottom having outrageous good fortune? All Colin Todd can do is restore Scott Sellars after suspension — and offer up a little prayer.

**LIVERPOOL** (probable: 4-4-2): B. Friedl — R. Jones, J. Carragher, S. Harkness, S. Collymore — S. Carragher, P. Berger — R. Riordan, P. M. O'Brien.

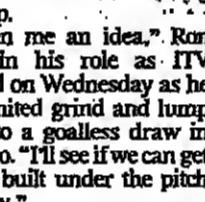
**BOLTON WANDERERS** (probable: 4-4-2): K. Branagan — N. Cox, C. Foulds, A. Todd, D. Smith, P. P. Pollock, P. P. Pollock, A. Thompson, S. Sellars — N. Black, O. Holdsworth. Referee: K. Burge.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Liverpool to win.



**SHIFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
v  
**MANCHESTER UNITED**  
Today, 3.00 (sold out)



**Keith Pike**

Manchester United may be delighted in their new image as the self-styled "bore-draw specialists of Europe", but it was not a lack of fluency or ambition that got them there in the first place and normal service should be resumed at Hillsborough this afternoon as the champions look to extend their 11-point lead in the FA Carling Premiership.

"It's given me an idea," Ron Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and limp their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "If we can get to the final, I hope we can learn the value of a more pragmatic approach on their continental tour, so they have tended to show no ill-effects for Saturday."

The Sheffield Wednesday manager had every right to be fearful. A 6-1 hammering that Wednesday sustained at Old Trafford on November 1 split the end of the road for David Pleat, his predecessor as manager, who was

dismissed two days later. Neither

Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and limp their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "It's given me an idea," Ron Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and limp their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "If we can get to the final, I hope we can learn the value of a more pragmatic approach on their continental tour, so they have tended to show no ill-effects for Saturday."

Season two days later. Neither

Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and limp their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "It's given me an idea," Ron Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and limp their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "If we can get to the final, I hope we can learn the value of a more pragmatic approach on their continental tour, so they have tended to

## FOOTBALL SATURDAY

## Truth of Collymore fracas must be put in black and white

**W**ell, it caused a storm, didn't it? Stan Collymore's return against Liverpool was always going to generate its fair share of controversy, but I don't think that anyone expected the outcome of last Saturday.

Racism is a serious issue and it is important for me to state that it is a detestable attitude that has no place in sport, or in society for that matter. Everyone at Liverpool shares that view, from the players to the staff.

We have gone to great lengths at Anfield to support the Kick It Out campaign. We have done it with England as well and there is no doubt that racism is not the problem within the game — certainly among the players — that it perhaps was a few years ago.

There is no room to be complacent, but if there is a problem, then

it is generally in cases where, in the heat of a game, players say indefensible things about race.

Every footballer accepts that there will be barracking and name-calling and lots of banter throughout a match — but racist comments should never be part of that.

It is up to players to set an example if we are ever to rid our sport of this problem. What we should be aiming for is an atmosphere where every supporter feels that he or she can come to a match and support their team without feeling uncomfortable or abused in any way. The only way to start that is with the players.

Steve Harkness has said that he didn't make racist comments to Stan. I was the last person off the pitch at Villa Park on Saturday and I didn't see what happened in the tunnel. I have been told that

there was a bit of a shouting match and that Stan and Steve had a go at each other, trading insults.

They continued their verbs from off the pitch. It happens in every match: a defender marking an attacker will have a go at putting his opponent off, and vice versa. It is part of the game. But Steve said that he didn't make racist comments and the Liverpool players have accepted that there must have been a misunderstanding.

The only thing that puzzles us is how this could have got into the newspapers, when it was something that only two people know about and have different opinions about.

Our lads have been fine about it. Harry has come in for a bit of leg-pulling and Phil Babb made the funniest comment when he brought Steve a white blanket with

holes cut out as eyes to put on his head.

That wasn't flippant, it was a message that the players accept the misunderstanding. Nobody at Liverpool would condone racist comments. I can honestly say that it would never cross my mind to make any comments like that to any player. I might call him fat, or useless or stupid, but never anything too offensive.

There is still a problem of racism in society and it is important for footballers to use their public image to get the message across that it is wrong. There are people

## McMANAMAN'S WORLD



subjected to some terrible stick from opposing supporters when he first started out at Anfield. There was that disgraceful picture of bananas being thrown at him. What sort of person could do a thing like that?

One year, at our Christmas party, everyone was enjoying themselves when someone walked in, dressed in full Ku Klux Klan regalia. The place went horribly quiet and everyone feared it would cause great offence. Then the person pulled off his mask — and it was Barnet!

I have had a serious injury, when I dislocated my knee. It has happened three times, but every time, I knew that I would be back quite quickly, with a bit of work. With Robbie, the problem is more severe. He has got the physical work, of course, to ensure that he gets back in top condition. But the problem is more of a mental one.

When you are out of action for so long, it is the havoc that it can play with your mind that can be the genuinely destructive force.

You have to be so strong, mentally, to deal with the thoughts that go through your mind when you are inactive. The fears, the boredom, they all play a part in destroying confidence and planting seeds of doubt. I was in plaster up to my thigh and that was a terrible feeling, just because I was immobile.

Robbie is a strong character and he is working hard already to get back quickly. I know he will come back in good shape and I will be now that he comes back an even better, and stronger, player. We all wish him luck at Liverpool and pray for his speedy recovery.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

## FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated  
\* denotes off-timer match  
Pools coupon numbers in brackets  
In FA Cup and Premiership fixtures,  
1st round pool cut

FA Cup

Sixth round

(1) Coventry v Sheffield Utd

(2) Leeds v Wolverhampton

FA Carling Premiership

(3) Luton v Bolton

(4) Southampton v Everton

P W D L F A Pts

Man Utd ... 29 18 5 5 75 19 58

Aston Villa ... 26 13 8 5 45 28 54

Bolton ... 28 10 7 5 46 28 47

Chelsea ... 27 14 3 10 52 30 54

Coventry ... 28 10 8 4 54 28 45

Leicester ... 28 10 8 4 54 28 45

West Ham ... 27 12 4 11 58 36 40

Everton ... 28 11 4 5 58 35 38

Southampton ... 28 11 4 5 58 35 38

Newcastle ... 27 9 7 11 58 31 34

Sheff Wed ... 28 12 4 11 58 31 45

Aston Villa ... 28 12 4 11 58 31 33

Wolverhampton ... 28 12 4 11 58 31 33

Everton ... 28 7 8 12 52 30 39

Tottenham ... 29 11 2 6 58 24 40

Barnsley ... 27 7 4 18 24 63 25

Bolton ... 27 4 12 11 23 42 24

C Palace ... 27 5 8 12 21 41 24

Nationwide League

First division

(5) Birmingham v QPR

(6) Bristol v Nottingham Forest

(7) Ipswich v Charlton

(8) Manchester City v Oxford Utd

(10) Reading v Port Vale

(11) Stoke v Macclesfield

(12) Yeovil v Stevenage

(13) Swindon v Portsmouth

(14) West Bromwich v Bradford

P W D L F A Pts

Notts F ... 36 20 8 7 55 35 58

Middlesbrough ... 36 20 8 7 55 35 58

Sunderland ... 34 19 8 7 55 35 58

Cheltenham ... 36 19 8 7 55 35 58

Shrewsbury ... 34 15 13 3 58 37 58

Ipswich ... 35 14 12 3 58 37 58

Stockport ... 36 16 6 14 58 49 54

Birmingham ... 36 14 12 6 58 49 54

Wolverhampton ... 36 14 12 6 58 49 54

Bradford ... 36 12 12 3 57 55 48

Crewe ... 36 14 5 17 49 49 48

Swindon ... 36 14 5 17 49 49 48

Notts C ... 36 11 11 5 55 55 44

QPR ... 36 10 13 13 52 50 43

Derby ... 36 11 13 16 52 50 41

Tranmere ... 36 11 13 16 52 50 41

Stoke ... 36 9 10 17 41 42 39

Reading ... 36 10 9 17 41 42 39

Bury ... 36 7 18 11 35 58 39

Poole ... 35 10 12 18 35 51 39

Shrewsbury ... 36 8 15 32 50 52 45

Walsall ... 36 8 15 32 50 52 45

Port Vale ... 36 8 15 32 50 52 45

FAR HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-final: Athlone v Longford (7.30)

FAR HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Kilmarnock v Dundalk (7.30)

## Second division

(15) Blackpool v Watford

(16) Bristol Rovers v Barnsley

(17) Bristol City v Northampton

(18) Chesterfield v Fulham

(19) Luton v Wycombe

(20) Fleetwood v Birmingham

(21) Grimsby v Cambridge United

(22) Hartlepool v Walsall

(23) Leyton Orient v Peterborough

(24) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(25) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(26) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(27) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(28) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(29) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(30) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(31) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(32) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(33) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(34) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(35) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(36) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(37) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(38) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(39) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(40) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(41) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(42) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(43) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(44) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(45) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(46) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(47) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(48) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(49) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(50) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(51) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(52) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(53) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(54) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(55) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(56) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(57) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(58) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(59) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(60) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(61) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(62) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(63) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(64) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(65) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(66) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(67) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(68) Oldham v Shrewsbury Town

(69) Oldham

## CRICKET: WICKETKEEPER RECEIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

# England prepared to leave struggling Russell in firing line

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ENGLAND are continuing to accommodate the diminishing returns of Jack Russell and he now seems sure to retain his place as Test-match wicketkeeper. Yesterday, as the tour party delayed selection for the three-day game against Barbados beginning today, Russell was pointedly the one confirmed inclusion.

Russell has seldom completed a series without enduring a clamour for Alex Stewart to replace him. Usually, the justifications have been in team balance, a quest to strengthen either the batting or the bowling within a struggling side rather than any reflection of deficiencies in Russell's game. This time, it is different.

It has not been a happy series for Russell, either as wicketkeeper or batsman, and he makes no attempt to deny it. Chances have been missed and his routine takes have been untidier than even the capricious pitches can pardon. He has also been conspicuously short of runs. Loyalty evidently remains

strong, however, and neither Michael Atherton, the captain, nor David Lloyd, the coach, is prepared to sacrifice him lightly. Yesterday, while coyly uncommunicative about other selection matters, Atherton was categorical about Russell. "Jack will play in this game," he said. "If you are asking me if he will definitely play in the next Test, I couldn't possibly say, but he's not the only one who may be in the bad game in Georgetown."

"Perhaps he hasn't been keeping wicket as well as he can but conditions have been very difficult. The West Indies' keeper has been struggling, too, Barbados tends to be a bouncy wicket and it will be easier for Jack here. I also think he is a very good player for us to have coming in at No 7."

This was a ringing endorsement, even if it is accepted that the present reasons for persisting with Russell have a good deal to do with protecting Stewart. As much the most successful batsman on tour, hugely respected by the opposition,

Stewart's form and peace of mind are paramount. Forcing extra duties on him now could critically undermine a side already damaged by underachieving with the bat.

Stewart, who missed the pre-Test fixture in Guyana, will play today and probably open the batting with Mark Butcher. Atherton having firmly indicated his preference for a match off. Providing the facility suits his needs, Atherton will spend the weekend practising at the Wanderers club.

Wanderers, one of the oldest and most traditional cricket clubs on the island, remained an all-white preserve until the 1970s, which may seem appropriate in a week when Barbados is bracing itself with a degree of resentment for the arrival of about 7,000 England supporters.

The boost to tourism and all related industries is naturally immense, but many Bajans are incensed that so many tickets for the fifth Test, which starts next Thursday, have been obtained by English holiday operators.

Officially, only 35 per cent of the tickets can be allocated overseas. Unofficially, a black market has been created, with local agents buying tickets at the lower price level available for domestic purchase and selling them on a profit to English contacts.

Several hundred temporary seats

have been flown into Bridgetown — ironically, from England — but in keeping with almost every ground England have visited on this tour, Kensington Oval is anything but ready for the big day.

Kensington should at least provide better pitch conditions than those that England have encountered to date and the ground remains on standby to stage the sixth Test, too, though this situation should be resolved this weekend when two club sides will play a trial match on the controversially and belatedly relaid Recreation Ground on Antigua.

If the pitch or the outfield is deemed unfit, a swift decision will be made to switch the venue, but officers of the Antigua Cricket Association are confident that they will keep their Test match.

Barbados will have six players with Test experience in their side today.

"The mood in our side is still confident," Atherton said, "because we know we can bowl West Indies out twice. We have proved we can beat them and we can do it again next week — but only if we get decent scores on the board."

Michael Kasprowicz made the breakthrough for Australia when Mongolia, having made 58, slumped at an outswinger and was caught high by Ian Healy.

Sidhu, who was on 62, was run out by Mark Waugh in the next over and Tendulkar, who had beaten Warne severely while scoring 204 for Bombay against the touring side, fell to his fifth ball from the leg spinner, brilliantly picked up at slip by Mark Taylor.

Three wickets then fell for eight runs before India rallied to reach 232 for five at the close, saved from a more serious collapse by Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble, who have so far added 37 for the sixth wicket.

Michael Kasprowicz made the breakthrough for Australia when Mongolia, having made 58, slumped at an outswinger and was caught high by Ian Healy.

Sidhu, who was on 62, was run out by Mark Waugh in the next over and Tendulkar, who had beaten Warne severely while scoring 204 for Bombay against the touring side, fell to his fifth ball from the leg spinner, brilliantly picked up at slip by Mark Taylor.

Nathaniel Astle was New Zealand's match-winner, scoring his fifth one-day international century from 136 balls. He and Lorne Howell, who made 66, put on 147 as New Zealand coasted past Zimbabwe's total of 207 for eight in 45.2 overs.

Waqar, who took five wickets in Test cricket for the twentieth time, celebrates after bowling Kallis



Waqar, who took five wickets in Test cricket for the twentieth time, celebrates after bowling Kallis

## Waqar inspired by reunion

FROM IVO TENNANT  
IN PORT ELIZABETH

**PORT ELIZABETH** (first day of five; Pakistan won toss; South Africa have scored 262 for seven wickets against Pakistan)

Waqar Younis, in his first session, was in excess of what had looked probable in the first session.

Waqar, who finished with five for 64, attempts to vary his pace more less by the state of the pitch than a belief that South Africa's upper order is suspect. Indeed it is. The first five wickets fell for 122, four of them taken by Waqar. Younis, before Hansie Cronje batted like a cricket of his own crooked bat.

Cronje, stung by Rasid Latif's remark that South Africa would settle for a draw rather than risk another defeat, made 85 before Waqar accounted for him. His partnerships with Pollock and Botha brought about a total that was

twentieth time he took five wickets in Test cricket. He needs one more for 250.

Hudson brought off the occasional decent cover-drive and Pollock struck seven fours in an innings of 38, but not until Cronje was in partnership with Boucher, adding 57 did South Africa bat with any sense of freedom.

Off the field the United Cricket Board, which had to deal with petitioners demanding that more non-white cricketers should be playing at provincial and international level, said that it would investigate allegations that offensive remarks were made to members of the public during the second Test by Pat Symcox, Farie de Villiers and Paddy Upton, the team's dieticians.

Where such a move would leave London Scottish, their co-tenants at the Athletic Ground, is uncertain. The exiles are under pressure to win promotion from the second division and they can gain a significant advantage if West Hardepool, their nearest rivals for the second automatic promotion place behind Bedford, are beaten at the Athletic Ground tomorrow.

Richmond are away to ailing Harlequins, who are in the midst of their worst league run and need to avoid a sixth successive defeat today. An East Midlands affair between Leicester and Northampton this afternoon is followed tomorrow by the traditionally one-sided West Country clash of bottom-placed Bristol and improving Bath, who boast a 100 per cent record in 15 league meetings with their neighbours.

The ACT Brumbies maintained their unbeaten home record in the Super 12 tournament by beating Otago Highlanders 34-26 in Canberra, scoring five tries to two. In Christchurch, Canterbury Crusaders defeated NSW Waratahs 33-12.

Richmond are away to ailing Harlequins, who are in the midst of their worst league run and need to avoid a sixth successive defeat today. An East Midlands affair between Leicester and Northampton this afternoon is followed tomorrow by the traditionally one-sided West Country clash of bottom-placed Bristol and improving Bath, who boast a 100 per cent record in 15 league meetings with their neighbours.

The ACT Brumbies maintained their unbeaten home record in the Super 12 tournament by beating Otago Highlanders 34-26 in Canberra, scoring five tries to two. In Christchurch, Canterbury Crusaders defeated NSW Waratahs 33-12.

## GOLF: PACE-SETTING QUARTET PUT THEORISTS IN THEIR PLACE AS QATAR MASTERS UNFOLDS INTO BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

## Sherborne stoops to conquer rivals with record return

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN DOHA, QATAR

Sherborne: two-stroke lead

THERE is one difficulty tall golfers face that does not afflict those of lesser height. The length of their legs is supposed to make it difficult for them to maintain the plane of their swing and thus strike the ball accurately and consistently.

That few golfers over 6ft 2in have reached the highest level suggests that there is more than a grain of truth in this theory. Nick Faldo, all 6ft 3in

of him, is an exception and he is always banging on about how hard he finds it to keep his arms and legs in synchronisation. But Andrew Sherborne and Ross Drummond, both 6ft 4in, the 6ft 6in Anders Forsbrand, who has long legs and, to make matters worse, very short arms, and, late in the day, Paul Quirici, a tall Swiss, all made light of such difficulties in the second round of the Qatar Masters.

Bartolo, who rose at 4.30am to be ready for his 6.40am starting time, took full

advantage of a morning without a breath of wind. He stooped to conquer the new course with a 64, a record.

Sherborne has a reputation as a player with a solid long game who occasionally has low rounds by virtue of some exceptional putting. This was evident on the 1st, 4th and 13th, for birdies, where he sank putts of 20, 15 and 35 feet respectively. On the 10th, he chipped in from 25 yards and on the 16th and 18th he chipped close for birdies to go 11 under par for a lead of two strokes.

Sherborne, who rose at 4.30am to be ready for his 6.40am starting time, took full

advantage of a morning without a breath of wind. He stooped to conquer the new course with a 64, a record.

Sherborne has a reputation as a player with a solid long game who occasionally has low rounds by virtue of some exceptional putting. This was evident on the 1st, 4th and 13th, for birdies, where he sank putts of 20, 15 and 35 feet respectively. On the 10th, he chipped in from 25 yards and on the 16th and 18th he chipped close for birdies to go 11 under par for a lead of two strokes.

Drummond, the slim Scot who will be 42 this year and has been a professional since 1975, failed to secure his card to compete on the PGA European Tour last November. His most important days come at the weekends when, if he is lucky, he receives a last-minute sponsor's invitation to a tournament as happened for Qatar.

"I am told that the plane of my swing is OK," Drummond, who had a wretched 1997, said. "My tendency is to tilt, to get underneath the ball and balloon it to the right.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back."

He struck the ball well, benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36-hole cut, which fell at level par.

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66.

Patrick Sjoland, a 5ft 9in Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play.

Then came Quirici, 30, who is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from calmer conditions.

RUGBY UNION  
Saracens,  
a league  
of their own  
in London

LAWRENCE  
DALLAGLIO



**C**lub versus country? There is no contest. I am captain of Wasps and have a contract with them that takes me to the end of next year. Within that contract Wasps fully support the principle of releasing me for England duty.

It is clear that Chris Wright (the club owner) and Wasps fully support England rugby. We have provided this year alone the England manager, Roger Utley, the England A assistant coach, Rob Smith, Pat Fox, the fitness coach and Phil Keith-Roach, the scrumming coach. And I have had the honour of captaining the team. Therefore it continues to confuse me when I read about there being a huge and irreparable conflict between club and country.

It's not for me to discuss the contractual arrangements of England's leading players with their

respective clubs. My contract with Wasps allows me to make myself available for both England training and selection so a decision about whether I would play or not is one for Clive Woodward.

It is my intention to honour my contract with Wasps. I can categorically state that I have received no official inducement from the Rugby Football Union, or anyone involved in English rugby, to sign a contract with Twickenham.

I have never met a player who has had to be dragged kicking and screaming from his bed to represent his country. Playing for England is not compulsory, you are not obliged to serve.

The last time England won a trophy in a leading sport was in 1966, well before I was born. As a country we still talk about former glories. The reasons why, in rugby, New Zealand and South Africa are

### England must fulfil their obligation to tour southern-hemisphere countries

consistently successful is not because they are lucky or things are left to chance. It's because the right environment and structure are in place.

The game is at the crossroads. What happens in the coming months is crucial. People have to decide whether they want England to continue to make up the numbers or whether they want the team to compete consistently and successfully against the dominant forces in world rugby.

The discussion about whether other players tour is surely one for the England coach and that individual if selected I would certainly make myself available. I am a man of

honour and I will honour what I have said I will do.

Last autumn no one from New Zealand complained about fatigue even though they had played 12 internationals in a year. They sent their best team so that our stadia were filled. South Africa and Australia did the same. It would be disrespectful if we did not show them the same courtesy and pay them the same compliment.

I did not hear Clive Woodward deliver an ultimatum to the England players on Wednesday. If others felt that they had heard differently then perhaps they misunderstood what was being said. All Clive reiterated was that players had signed to make

themselves available for pre-Christmas internationals, the Five Nations and the summer tour. Now if some players find their club contracts don't allow them to tour then perhaps they should not have signed the England agreement. No one coerced them into doing so. If Clive felt he was picking players for the forthcoming game against Scotland who would not tour it would be a waste of his and England's time. That is not the way to develop a World Cup-winning side.

There has been speculation we may even have to field a below-strength side at Murrayfield. All I can say is that no one would wish to see that happen, least of all the players.

It does seem amazing that we can avert a Third World War with Iraq but cannot sort out our rugby union. There is a lot of disinformation going on at the moment, a lot of

people with their own personal agendas. But I am a firm believer that there must be some common ground. If it is a question of personalities then they should move to one side for the good of the game. I cannot act as a broker but what I can say is there is no division among the players.

I appreciate that within the wider picture there will be no speedy resolution if the two sides are not even prepared to talk to each other. It is clear that the arguments that are raging in the game are not a debate about club v country but about something far more significant — who controls the players and ultimately the game.

I cannot predict what will happen but my hope is that we, the players, can compete in a dynamic and competitive club structure and that England can become the greatest side in the world. It can happen.

**Five Nations Championship:** Ireland, Scotland and Wales put tarnished reputations on the line

## France prepare for grand parade

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

IRELAND, to their delight, brought the rain with them yesterday and turned springtime in Paris into a brisk, uncomfortable morning. But neither sun, wind nor rain will be powerful enough allies to prevent France from winning the penultimate stage of their assault on a back-to-back grand slam when they play the Irish at the Stade de France here this afternoon.

Even the French reputation for combustibility, which, over the past 12 years, has broken out at international level on comparatively few occasions, will not come to the aid of Ireland. If there is one message that has been drilled home to the French this year it has been that of collective discipline. That was the rock on which England stumbled a month ago.

The other message is that the players must finish what they have started. If France had taken every opportunity that their inventive play created against England, they would have at least doubled the two tries they scored. Perhaps at that stage it was merely a matter of confidence, it being their first outing since the 52-10 defeat by South Africa two months earlier. They have been told that it is imperative to maintain the shape of their game, to regroup swiftly and to reduce the number of turnovers. Against Scotland they lost the ball a dozen times in contact, even though they won the match 51-16.

"I have warned the players against losing their collective approach," Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, said. "There is no room in rugby for individualism. Anyone who thinks this is an occasion for self-indulgence will find himself watching the match from the stand." While understanding Skrela's rationale, it would be sad if the French *esprit de corps* ruled out the sense of style that, at its best, has so frequently characterised their rugby.

One needs the check of a Thomas Castaingé, the bustling exhortations of a Christian Caffiano to add that indefinable splash of French colour to the Five Nations Championship, just as one needs the



New direction: Gatland, right, the Ireland coach, points the way forward during a training session in Orsay, south of Paris, yesterday

subtlety of a Welsh midfield or the raw-boned athleticism of a Scottish back row to bring character to the tournament. So what can Ireland bring to a party at which they are always welcome but never able to get hold of the goodies on offer?

Their last victory in Paris was in

1972. Since Freddie McLeanian, the Wanderers wing, scored a try in the 1980 fixture, the solitary Ireland try scored here was a penalty try in 1996. In the four games since 1990, France have averaged just less than 39 points a match, against 12 by Ireland.

Ireland can, of course, bring a new broom this time. Since they opened their campaign with the single-point defeat by Scotland, Brian Ashton and Warren Gatland arrived, bringing with him a down-to-earth realism born of his New Zealand roots. Ireland have been here before, of course, when another New Zealander — Murray Kidd — was the coach, but Gatland makes no bones about his ambition for this season. "We must regain respect from our opponents," he said. "That has not been the case for several seasons and, at the moment, it's difficult to look beyond that."

Given the margin of French victories this decade, respect will come from a performance that, as much as anything, restricts the home side but that must be more than the traditional blood-and-thunder for the opening quarter. Ireland must find a way of blunting the edge of the France half backs,

may be Ireland's most potent weapon. But above all, within the short time at his disposal, he must have devised an attainable game-plan. There should be no high-frawn talk about keeping up with the southern hemisphere when there are foes nearer home who must be overcome first.

The other instructive element today, in Paris and at Wembley, will be the displays of the referees. There were distinctly mixed feelings over the relaxed approach of the two New Zealanders, Colin Hawke and Paddy O'Brien, who handled the championship matches a fortnight ago at Twickenham and Murrayfield, ranging from the extreme praise of Clive Woodward, the England coach, to those who accused them of bringing Super 12 froth to the north.

O'Brien, one of the touch judges in Paris today, believes that there is a happy medium that both hemispheres still seek. Jim Fleming, Scotland's leading official, will bring a touch of rigour to the Stade de France, which should help Ireland if they rattle the bars of the French cage. But if the French runners, backs and forwards alike, break loose, then the blue wave will break over the green and wash it away.

## Self-respect may emerge as main Wembley goal

BY GERALD DAVIES

THE results two weeks ago at Twickenham and Murrayfield have provided a strange and perhaps false perception of the games in the Five Nations Championship today. Certainly it is hard to imagine what to expect at Wembley Stadium.

There is a feeling abroad that whatever comes to pass between Wales and Scotland is irrelevant to the rugby-playing hierarchy and that the result should be regarded solely as being of academic interest. This may prove to be the case.

The remaining matches, therefore, cannot come round soon enough. This is not because of our undiminished appetite for international rugby, nor for the renewed excitement that visits to the various capital cities bring. Rather, it is because there is an urgent need to find the true validity of those extraordinary scores a fortnight ago and to put them in a more definitive context.

That England and France should score more than a half-century of points each against Wales and Scotland respectively still reverberates to the point of numbing disbelief for those who continue to suffer.

Did England and France, with the margin of their victories, make a decisive break from the rest? Were the scores an outline of what should be expected henceforth from two countries possessing broader bases of playing power and greater riches? Or were they an aberration in which the two referees, because of their southern-hemisphere habits of ignoring the letter of the law for the sake of entertainment, unwittingly collaborated in sporting slayings that helped, in part, to diminish the championship?

Time will tell. Perhaps England and France did set the standard for the future. But for the record books to have any meaning, the game, as far as it is possible, needs to be consistent. The two referees today hail from the northern hemisphere

and their performances will be more keenly scrutinised than usual.

Such are the thoughts that dominate the mind above and beyond the debate about the form of the teams today. Overall, we are unlikely to be any wiser this evening. Scotland have had a despairing time of it. Their victory over Ireland in Dublin served as their only respite in between being grounded before Christmas by both Australia and South Africa and, a fortnight ago, by France.

Wales's preparation for the championship had a more kindly feel. Barring their defeat by New Zealand, they faced Romania, Tonga and Italy after their summer tour to the United States and Canada. There was progress of a kind but, after the England debacle, Wales must consider this match today to be yet another fresh start. The Scottish and Welsh seasons remain somewhat shapeless. For what it is worth, Wales beat Italy; Scotland lost to them.

Scotland at least have a semblance of continuity. They made only two changes after their last match and were forced because of injury to make another. Wales made nine changes in all and half of the pack has disappeared in the reshuffle.

If both countries are now cast as minnows, Scotland and Wales need to show that against each other they are capable of retaining a high level of skill. If the match is riddled with errors, the teams will only serve to confirm their lowered status. At all costs, they must not allow this to happen.

Both camps are spending their time talking up the opposition in order that each can motivate the bunter of the underdog in themselves. If not that, then respect is the word dominating their vocabularies. After what both countries regard as a humiliating experience, they want to regain their own sense of self-worth. No one can argue.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY					
WALES			SCOTLAND		
N A Morgan (Pontypridd)	18	D J Lee (London Scottish)	A G Stoeber (Hawick)		
W T Proctor (Llanelli)	14	A G Stoeber (Hawick)	G P J Townsend (Northampton)		
A G Bateman (Richmond)	13	18 Gibbs (Swansea)	A V Tait (Newcastle)		
G Thomas (Bridgend)	11	S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP)			
N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)	10	C M Chisholm (Melrose)	B G Armstrong (Newcastle)*		
R Howley (Cardiff)*	9		D I W Hilton (Bath)		
A L P Lewis (Cardiff)	1		G C Bullock (West of Scotland)		
R Jenkins (Llanelli)	2		D R Jennings (Swansea)		
F Tournier (Toulouse)	3		M J Stewart (Northampton)		
F Brouzet (Bayonne-Sorèze)	4		D Young (Cardiff)		
O Petous (Toulouse)	5		A P Moore (Swansea)		
IM Lievremont (Stade Français)	6		R I Walmsley (Dundee HSFP)		
O Magne (Brive)	7		K P Jones (Ebbw Vale)		
T Lievremont (Perpignan)	8		A J Roxburgh (Kelso)		
Referee: J Dumé (France)			C L Charvis (Swansea)		
*Captain			E W Parsons (Bath)		
REPLACEMENTS: 18 J Bourne (Bath), 27 J Aup (Castres), 28 F Gethin (Cardiff), 29 P Colombe (Colomiers), 30 P Bonetti (Agde), 20 T Caste (Pau), 22 C Soule (Béziers), 22 M dal Masso (Agde).			Referee: J Dumé (France)		
REPLACEMENTS: 18 M Lynch (Young Munster), 17 D G Humphreys (London Irish), 19 B T O'Meara (Cork Constitution), 20 M J Galway (Shannon), 20 N Popplewell (Newcastle), 22 P M Clossey (Young Munster), 22 R P Neale (Newcastle).			REPLACEMENTS: 18 R J S Shepherd (Melrose), 27 C Murray (Hawick), 28 A O Nic (Bath), 29 R Smith (Moseley), 20 S B Grimes (Wetstone), 22 G Graham (Newcastle), 21 G Ellis (Urquhart).		

## ALFRED DUNHILL LONDON

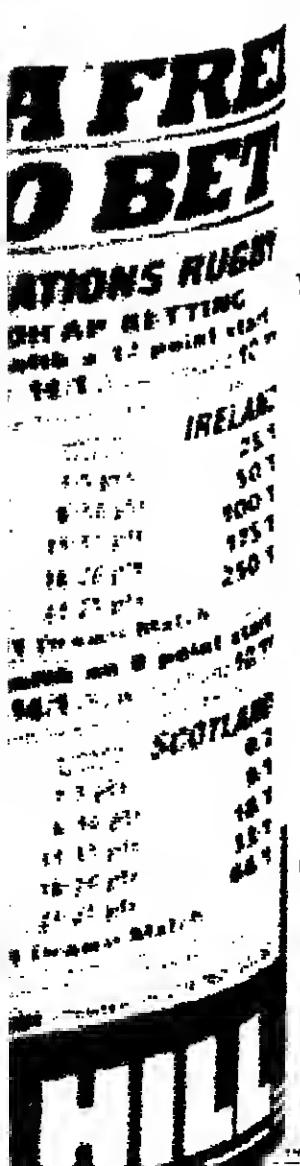
THE NEW SPRING/SUMMER 1998 MENSWEAR COLLECTION AVAILABLE AT

ALFRED DUNHILL, 48 JERMYN STREET SW1.

THE NEW CITYSCAPE LEATHER COLLECTION AVAILABLE AT ALFRED DUNHILL,

48 JERMYN STREET SW1, 5 ROYAL EXCHANGE EC3 AND HARRODS.

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS TELEPHONE CUSTOMER SERVICES ON 0171 290 8600.



## RACING

# Ardrina can book her place in Gold Card Final

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A GROWING belief that too much racing — most of it moderate — rather than insufficient prize-money is the underlying problem facing the sport is supported by a disappointing turnout at four jump meetings today.

Just 213 horses have been declared for 27 races. Excluding three bumpers, the average field size is below seven — and the smallest number of runners are in races with the biggest prize-money.

At Doncaster, the only meeting covered by television (Channel 4), four runners contest a £20,000 handicap chase, five line up for a £10,000 handicap hurdle, while only six have been declared for the featured chase, also worth £20,000.

In theory, the smaller fields should make it easier for punters to locate winners but, as Ladbrokes' record profits made clear this week, theory and practice tend to be worlds apart much of the time for backers.

A golden rule this winter has been to follow the few yards which have been virus-free. Ferdy Murphy is one trainer whose string is in fine form and he has every reason for wanting to win the Wilsic Trophy Handicap Hurdle (3.05) with Ardrina as the penalty for victory would guarantee her a place in the

Gold Card Final at Cheltenham.

A decent novice last season, she was found to be suffering from crushed vertebrae after two disappointing runs this term. After treatment to her back, the Ardross mare returned to form when winning at Newcastle and her breeding suggests today's longer trip can bring about further improvement. What's Your Story is consistent and will appreciate

Mary Revey's spring is in top form and her lightly raced nine-year-old looks well handicapped judged on his form last year. A good fifth to Speaker Weatherill at Doncaster five weeks ago, he was not suited by the fast ground last time, but should relish the trip and go on top.

Sydney Two thousand has run respectably in decent novice company behind Errintane and Zarilaska and should help to make Lady Rebecca a backable proposition in the Stakis Casinos Series Novices Hurdle (4.40). Regarded as "a bit special" by Venetia Williams, her talented trainer, the mare won with plenty in hand at Cheltenham on her hurdling debut back in October. She can overcome an absence of 129 days before going on to greater things.

Man likely to ensure a sound pace, the mare should have the race run to suit. Real Tonic prefers faster ground, while Native Mission is best over the minimum trip.

The fitting of a visor has improved The Toiseach, who completed a quick double when beating Mahler easily at Ascot. The handicapper has raised this front-runner 10lb for that success and he looks worth opposing with Random Harvest in the Velka Pardubicka Grindthorpe Handicap Chase (4.10).

Mary Revey's spring is in

top form and her lightly raced nine-year-old looks well handicapped judged on his form last year. A good fifth to Speaker Weatherill at Doncaster five weeks ago, he was not suited by the fast ground last time, but should relish the trip and go on top.

Sydney Two thousand has run respectably in decent novice company behind Errintane and Zarilaska and should help to make Lady Rebecca a backable proposition in the Stakis Casinos Series Novices Hurdle (4.40). Regarded as "a bit special" by Venetia Williams, her talented trainer, the mare won with plenty in hand at Cheltenham on her hurdling debut back in October. She can overcome an absence of 129 days before going on to greater things.

either the Grand Annual Chase or Mildmay at the Cheltenham Festival.

Kim Bailey, his trainer, said: "If it's bottomless, he will run in the two-mile race, but otherwise it'll be the Mildmay. He was very fresh today, and that was why we were desperate to get a run into him. He's quite a hairy jumper to look at, back legs going in the opposite direction to the front ones, but obviously you don't let it on top." Bailey's yard is only just emerging from a bleak spell of coughing, and he confessed himself relieved that Tidebrook and Polydams — who limbered up for the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hu-

die at Ludlow on Thursday — had "come right just in time".

Unhappily, the same could not be said of the residents of many other Lambourn stables. One villager yesterday predicted "disaster" at the Festival, with few Lambourn horses fit and fewer fancied. Suny Bay, its leading Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup hope, is typical in the way he is tormenting Charlie Brooks during these final, crucial days.

Nicky Henderson is a happy exception, as Calon Lan confirmed in the opener. The card's star turn, however, was from that flourishing corner of the racing nation, the West Country. Earthmover ran away with the Peter

Hamer Memorial Hunters' Chase, preserving an unbeaten record when completing. It is his jumping that remains the principal flaw in his case as the leading domestic obstruction to Ireland's Elegant Lord in the Christies Foxhunters' Chase — and Polly Gundry confirmed herself to be anything but a hindrance with her neat performance yesterday.

Earthmover will join stablemate Fantus, who is seeking his third Cheltenham win. Richard Barber, their trainer, said: "He jumped well enough once he hit the front, but is definitely better on this softer ground. Fantus is likely to have a gallop after racing at Wincanton on Thursday."



Calon Lan, left, leads Phar Better over the last on his way to winning the Arlington National Hunt Novices' Hurdle at Newbury yesterday

## Tidebrook extends winning sequence

By CHRIS MCGRATH

THE courage and endurance of horse and rider were tested by what is fondly known as "good jumping weather" yesterday. Heavy rain had turned Newbury into a searching test, but Tidebrook flew through the mire to a 19-length defeat of Mister Oddy in the Geoffrey Gilby Handicap Chase (4.40).

There were some exhausted finishers during the afternoon, but Tidebrook did not need to strain for what was his sixth consecutive success — which is just as well, as he only has a few days to absorb the race his first in three months, before tackling

either the Grand Annual Chase or Mildmay at the Cheltenham Festival.

Kim Bailey, his trainer, said: "If it's

bottomless, he will run in the two-mile race, but otherwise it'll be the Mildmay. He was very fresh today, and that was why we were desperate to get a run into him. He's quite a hairy jumper to look at, back legs going in the opposite direction to the front ones, but obviously you don't let it on top." Bailey's yard is only just emerging from a bleak spell of coughing, and he confessed himself relieved that Tidebrook and Polydams — who limbered up for the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hu-

die at Ludlow on Thursday — had "come right just in time".

Unhappily, the same could not be

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

### DONCASTER

Grand National

'He can see the flaw in horse or rider and knows the exercise that will set it to rights'



Breisner, who says that he is still learning, uses a lunging rein as he embarks on a confidence-building programme with one of his charges at the Waterstock House training centre. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

## Horse master with the magic touch

**B**ut who," I asked, "is Yogi?" That was last week as Charlie Brooks watched the careful reconditioning of his faintly flawed wonder horse, Suny Bay. "Yogi," he said, more or less tautologically, "is a guru."

"And don't," Yogi said, "call me a guru." That was this week and I had gone to visit the guru at his ashram. Or, at least, the equestrian centre at Waterstock, in Oxfordshire, where Yogi, more or less on a daily basis, works his...

"And don't talk about miracles, either. Everything I do is just a matter of common sense." Which is fair enough. And the more he talked, the more obvious it was. All right then: Yogi Breisner is simply a disseminator of common sense. And as Mark Twain remarked, the thing about common sense is that it ain't that common.

But here's the idea of gurus, of a person wiser than the rest of us, passing on his wisdom in a mysterious way. A guru: a man with a key in his hand, who painlessly opens the locked doors of our understanding.

Everywhere in life, when you move into the area of intangibles, you find gurus: in religion and philosophy of course. And golf, of course, more mysterious and fascinating, I'm assured, than religion, philosophy and the creative pro-

### SIMON BARNES

#### Talking horse



cess, brings us David Leadbetter.

Leadbetter is a guru and the greatest of the game seek his mountain top for spiritual refurbishment and a spot of advice on uncocking the wrists. Or, of course, cocking them. Breisner is like Leadbetter. He made the comparison himself. Both have a huge and extraordinary talent for the correction of flaws. Leadbetter does it with golfers. Breisner does it with horse-riders—

**Yogi Breisner rejects talk of miracles. He puts his success at an equestrian centre in Oxfordshire down to common sense**

jump jockeys, eventers, dressage. He also does it with horses.

To Waterstock then, and a racehorse tall, lean and wonderfully athletic. You had to stride out to keep up with him at a walk. Talented, a good temperament, three chassing wins already in a fledgling career. And now problems.

I can't tell you his name, because I wasn't told it. Client confidential and all that. Walking his athletic way to an enclosed school. For many horse people, much of horse life happens in such a place. You rarely find such a thing in a racing yard. It's not How We Do It. You get a lot of that, in the horse life: what is not the way it has always been done, so it must be wrong. Much of the horsey world exists in hermetic compartments: everyone except us is (a) cruel and (b) incompetent.

But here was a racehorse walking out on a long, lunging rein—had he ever done such a thing since he had first been ridden? And to be lunged over a jump, and not a National Hunt jump but a show jump. No rider on his back. The horse had to think for himself.

"The brain," Breisner said. "You have to work on his brain, if you want to get the body to work right." I can't remember if he was talking about riders or horses at this point. The principle is the same in either case. Communication, you see.

And Breisner was communicating with the unknown and flawed animal by means of the lunging-rein, gestures of the whip, nuances of body language, voice. Mostly those staccato clucks that have become, perhaps have always been, part of the way in which humans talk to horses. "He was taking liberties with his fences," Breisner explained as the horse spun animatedly around him. "He was becoming too racy." His mind all on the other horses and the mad excitement of it all, crashing through the fences any old how, deaf to the corrections and the care of his jockey. That way lies defeat; probably injury, possibly death.

How do you deal with a problem horse? You can cross your fingers and hope for the best. Many horse people, professional and amateur, do exactly that. Sometimes it even works. You can try and solve the problem yourself. You can bring in

a work jockey for a schooling session. Or you can send for Yogi.

"Oh, I'm quite sure some trainers think I am a complete waste of time and money." Some people think that the horse whisperers—they hate the term even more than Breisner hates being called a guru—are charlatans. Others, the Queen for example, swear by them. Breisner is rather a fan himself and incorporates the Roberts stuff into his own method.

Which is only really one common sense inside another common sense, with the Mark Twain rule remaining in force.

And the Unnamed One was now lunging into the small jump. A pause: you could almost read the words on the thought-bubble over the horse's head: "What? All by myself?" And, mastering himself and gathering himself, he jumped. And jumped and jumped again, and then did it all in the other direction.

"Confidence is everything in jumping." Every human, rider knows that as well as every horse. "You build confidence with good experiences and knowledge."

And almost strutting under the influence of a good experience, almost visibly greater in knowledge, the horse was asked, by means of the shifting of a pole in front of the jump, to stand off the jump and seriously leap. And, being asked, seriously leapt.

Breisner was born in Sweden and remade in Ireland. He trained to become a top-quality event rider. But his destiny was to become a trainer and to train the animals of two quite different species to combine their joys and their talents in the name of sport.

A few years ago, a combination of circumstances brought him

to the Unnamed One was now lunging into the small jump. A pause: you could almost read the words on the thought-bubble over the horse's head: "What? All by myself?" And, mastering himself and gathering himself, he jumped. And jumped and jumped again, and then did it all in the other direction.

"Confidence is everything in jumping." Every human, rider knows that as well as every horse. "You build confidence with good experiences and knowledge."

And what Breisner does is really all frightfully simple. He can see the flaw in horse or rider with great facility. He knows the exercise that will set it to rights. And he knows how to communicate this to the human, to the horse. Gurus need confidence, too.

The odd thing about reading Mike Brearley's book about leadership in cricket, *The Art of Captaincy*, was that instead of exploring mysteries, it seemed to proclaim that Brearley's secret was that there is no secret.

It all seems very obvious, the way he tells it. One great Victorian scientist exclaimed on reading *The Origin of Species*: "How extremely stupid not to have thought of that." There are times when it is clear that common sense is a very rare talent; and one that sometimes bears the hallmark of genius.



Breisner: works on the brain

**THUNDERER**  
2.25 Silvana Creek, 2.55 Dantes Cavaliere, 3.25 Polar Lord, 4.00 Sienna Bay, 4.30 Saxon Duke, 5.00 Mr Christie.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (7.15AM INSPECTION) SIS

**2.25 COLESDEN SELLING HURDLE**  
(£1,070; 2m 4f 110yd) (15 runners)

1. 514 FLOWN SECRET 11 (B.G.D.) M Piss 5-12-0 ... R Hayes  
2. 110 ALAPA 23 (C) Cooper 5-11-2 ... T Kent  
3. 100 BEAU CYRANO 21 (B.G.D.) D Cawthron 5-11-2 ... C Morris  
4. 101 CLOUTIER 20 (B.G.D.) P Murphy 5-11-2 ... D Murphy  
5. 100 KENILWORTH LAD 27 (S) Acc V West 5-11-2 ... P Murphy  
6. 0/9 MACS HERO 18 (C) S Chauhan 5-11-2 ... D Murphy  
7. -0/9 MOST VITAL 19 (B.G.D.) V West 5-11-2 ... D Murphy  
8. 0/9 RENAISSANCE 18 (B.G.D.) Loyd-Jones 5-11-2 ... W Morris

REMOVED: 18 (F) Acc V West 5-11-2 ... P Murphy

10 1800 SILENA CREEK 22 (B.G.D.) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ... R Denyer

11 1700 SILVER STAR 17 (B.G.D.) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ... R Denyer

12 1800 TINKERS PRETTY 20 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... Mr Edgar Sykes (7)

13 1800 CHIFF PRETTY 20 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... Mr Edgar Sykes (7)

14 1800 UNDISCLOSED 18 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... J Ryan

15 1800 MAVERICK 19 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... M Morris Smith (7)

16 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

17 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

18 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

19 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

20 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

21 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

22 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

23 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

24 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

25 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

26 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

27 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

28 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

29 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

30 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

31 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

32 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

33 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

34 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

35 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

36 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

37 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

38 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

39 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

40 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

41 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

42 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

43 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

44 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

45 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

46 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

47 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

48 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

49 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

50 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

51 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

52 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

53 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

54 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

55 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

56 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

57 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

58 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

59 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

60 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

61 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

62 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

63 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

64 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

65 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

66 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

67 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

68 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

69 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

70 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent

71 1800 PINTO'S SECRET 21 (B.G.D.) M Williams 4-10-0 ... T Kent







go

Budget spin-doctors are targeting cars by claiming that driving costs have risen far less than public transport. But that doesn't mean that driving is too cheap

## Why not tax dumb ideas instead?

**W**hen Henry Kissinger was given the Nobel Peace Prize, the American writer Tom Lehrer said that he was giving up satire on grounds of unfair competition. Similar thoughts have been flowing through my mind this week as the various nudges and winks that proceed all Budgets have scattered themselves across my desk. There are times when real events leave even the most garrulous of columnists nearly speechless.

I did say nearly. The pick of the Budget leaks was a story obtained by Radio 4's *Today* programme. Government figures show that since 1974, the cost of motoring has risen by an amount that is 6.5 per cent below the rate of inflation, while travelling on trains or buses has risen by much more than inflation: 75 per cent more in the



Peter Barnard

case of trains and 60 per cent in the case of buses.

This is clearly going to be the excuse to give the motorist another Budget hammering: more on fuel, more on road tax, further reductions on company car tax benefits. I dare say Gordon Brown will put a tax on those nodding bums.

that some people hang in their rear windows (not that I would object to that, come to think of it).

Nor would I mind if the Chancellor imposed on motorway service areas a spilled-tea surcharge, say £1 for every occasion when the teapot spills its contents all over the table.

How about a cones tax? Now here is something that could raise a lot of money. The idea is that drivers would pay extra to drive on roads for a specified distance of, say, five miles, did not have any lanes ceded off.

Obviously this would not bring in much income at present — how many times lately have you driven five miles without seeing a cone? — but the charge would encourage contractors to stop putting down a mile of cones on Friday afternoon ready for them to start work on Monday morning, while drivers

have to pay extra to drive on those nodding bums.

Obviously this would not bring in much income at present — how many times lately have you driven five miles without seeing a cone? — but the charge would encourage contractors to stop putting down a mile of cones on Friday afternoon ready for them to start work on Monday morning, while drivers



a poisonous mob who slaughter innocent children and send up great clouds of noxious fumes that blot out the sun. He will say that we make too many unnecessary journeys, though he is unlikely to cite the example of the journeys made by ministers between their Whitehall offices and the House of Commons.

Mr Brown will certainly not dwell on the single fact that makes a complete nonsense of the leaked figures about the cost of owning a car compared with the cost of travelling by train or bus. This fact is that even if we all made some journeys by train or bus, we would still need to own a car.

One cost would not replace the other, so the comparison is a stunt, a piece of public relations. Comparing these methods of transport — as if we could use a train to go to Sainsbury's or get on a bus in Devon that would take us to see our great aunt in Harrogate — is plain daft.

The fact that rail and bus fares have risen by amounts far above inflation is a scandal and an indictment of transport policy, or its absence. It means that bus and rail travel is too expensive; only someone in search of easy targets could conclude that it means motoring is too cheap.

you meant before VAT," or: "We thought you meant how much the labour charge would be," or: "The estimate didn't include the cost of the oil," or all three?

Of course, none of these imaginative and radical taxation ideas will spill the gum features of Mr Brown on Tuesday week. He will instead explain, though not in so many words, that motorists are

spend the weekend crawling past a lane that is empty save for the cones along its perimeter and, mysteriously, one man in a donkey jacket carrying some sort of stick: he has lost his dog?

Another useful tax would involve not drivers but garages. They would have to pay a levy amounting to the difference be-

tween what they said a service

would cost and what it actually cost. The present system is unsatisfactory. You ring up the garage and say: "I have got a Ford Fiesta that needs a 12,000-mile service, how much will that cost?" And the garage replies, say, £63.50 (note how specific they are). So why are you standing at the garage's counter writing a cheque for £82.69? Is it because: "We thought

you meant before VAT," or: "We thought you meant how much the labour charge would be," or: "The estimate didn't include the cost of the oil," or all three?

Of course, none of these imaginative and radical taxation ideas will spill the gum features of Mr Brown on Tuesday week. He will instead explain, though not in so many words, that motorists are

### THUNDERBIRD

Engine: in-line 12-valve, 885cc triple, producing 82bhp at 8,500rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed gearbox. Chain final-drive.

Performance: Max speed: 130mph, 0-60mph in 3.5 seconds.

Price: £7,649 (plus £350 on-the-road charge).

Insurance group: 12 (with Norwich Union).



Reverse-cone exhaust echoes Fifties and Sixties Triumphs

## Classic performer

Roland Brown  
on Triumph's  
sportier retro

**T**wo things that sell motorcycles are performance and nostalgia, as the success of Honda's Fireblade and countless Harley-Davidsons proves. It's also true of Triumph, whose bestselling models since the marque was revived in 1991 have been the retro-styled Thunderbird and last year's supersports T595 Daytona.

So it was logical for Triumph to aim for the best of both worlds with the Thunderbird Sport, the Leicestershire firm's only new model for 1998. The Sport combines the existing Thunderbird's old-fashioned style with an extra helping of three-cylinder performance. It is intended to attract riders who remember the glory days of Triumph, but are not too old to give the throttle cable a healthy tweak.

This bike has lower handlebars than the existing Thunderbird, but the Sport has a relaxed, almost upright riding position. The bike feels more like a typical unfaired roadster than an aggressive sports machine. It's comfortable in

town and happy being trickled along at slow speed.

The Sport's 885cc engine has a welcome 13bhp more than the laid-back Thunderbird. Happily, the cruiser's effortless midrange response hasn't been lost. Winding open the throttle sends the Sport whistling smoothly forward, with no hint of a power band and little need to keep flicking through a six-speed gearbox that was occasionally slightly notchy on down-changes.

There's enough power to reach about 130mph and, more usefully, the Sport's slightly forward-leaning riding position means comfortable cruising at the legal limit. All but the shortest passengers will feel cramped by the high pillion pegs, though. No grab-rail is fitted, although one is available as an extra.

The biggest advantage over the standard Thunderbird is in the chassis, which is considerably upgraded. Suspension is fully adjustable front and rear, wire-spoked wheels carry broad Avon radial tyres, and the twin-disc front brakes have plenty of bite.

Those changes are enough to make the Sport very enter-

taining on a twisty road. By sportsbike standards, the triple is heavy at 224kg, its suspension is quite soft and its footrests touch down too soon to encourage really aggressive cornering. But the Triumph blends light steering with stability and sticky tyres.

Riders looking for a true sportsbike should not be



Sport's lowered handlebars still give a relaxed posture

### REGISTRATION NUMBERS

THE ULTIMATE LABEL - DESIGNED BY YOU

from an inclusive £3.90

DVLA SELECT REGISTRATIONS

Before you turn this page, you could be the proud owner of a Select Registration from DVLA. For as little as £2.50 all inclusive, it's the perfect accessory for any vehicle.

To create your special number now, simply:

1. Choose a prefix letter to suit your budget.  
2. Add any one of up to 52 special numbers.  
3. Finally select your three preferred letters.

Choose from numbers 1 to 30 or in addition for prefixes J, K, L, M, N, P and R, you can also choose any repeat number from 22-999, any number ending in 0 from 30-90, or any number ending in 00 from 100-900.

With your Visa, Mastercard or cheque book to hand, call 01792 773366 between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, to check availability of your registration. Numbers are sold on a first come first served basis - so if you have a special number in mind, why wait another day?

DVLA Select Registration Hotline  
01792 773366

WHEN CALLING PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE T0703

www.dvla.com.co.uk

(DVLA reserved the right to withhold certain registrations, some of which may be offered for sale at auction. Numbers are sold subject to the Sale of Registration Marks Regulations and are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change without prior notice.)

(Registration cannot be mis-spelled, mis-represented, OR USED TO MAKE A VEHICLE LOOK YOUNGER THAN IT IS.)

### VOLKSWAGEN

### VOLKSWAGEN

### SHARAN 1998

Transmissions Service  
On New 110 Models

Sharan 2.0 Basic + A/C, Twin air  
con, 16" Alloys, 160bhp, 170mph, 0-60  
miles 8.2, 0-100 17.2, 0-120 21.6, 0-140  
23.1, 0-160 25.1, 0-180 27.1, 0-200  
29.2, 0-220 31.1, 0-240 33.1, 0-260  
35.1, 0-280 37.1, 0-300 39.1, 0-320  
41.1, 0-340 43.1, 0-360 45.1, 0-380  
47.1, 0-400 49.1, 0-420 51.1, 0-440  
53.1, 0-460 55.1, 0-480 57.1, 0-500  
59.1, 0-520 61.1, 0-540 63.1, 0-560  
65.1, 0-580 67.1, 0-600 69.1, 0-620  
71.1, 0-640 73.1, 0-660 75.1, 0-680  
77.1, 0-700 79.1, 0-720 81.1, 0-740  
83.1, 0-760 85.1, 0-780 87.1, 0-800  
89.1, 0-820 91.1, 0-840 93.1, 0-860  
95.1, 0-880 97.1, 0-900 99.1, 0-920  
101.1, 0-940 103.1, 0-960 105.1, 0-980  
107.1, 0-1000 109.1, 0-1020 111.1, 0-1040  
113.1, 0-1060 115.1, 0-1080 117.1, 0-1100  
119.1, 0-1120 121.1, 0-1140 123.1, 0-1160  
125.1, 0-1180 127.1, 0-1200 129.1, 0-1220  
131.1, 0-1240 133.1, 0-1260 135.1, 0-1280  
137.1, 0-1300 139.1, 0-1320 141.1, 0-1340  
143.1, 0-1360 145.1, 0-1380 147.1, 0-1400  
149.1, 0-1420 151.1, 0-1440 153.1, 0-1460  
155.1, 0-1480 157.1, 0-1500 159.1, 0-1520  
161.1, 0-1540 163.1, 0-1560 165.1, 0-1580  
167.1, 0-1600 169.1, 0-1620 171.1, 0-1640  
173.1, 0-1660 175.1, 0-1680 177.1, 0-1700  
179.1, 0-1720 181.1, 0-1740 183.1, 0-1760  
185.1, 0-1780 187.1, 0-1800 189.1, 0-1820  
191.1, 0-1840 193.1, 0-1860 195.1, 0-1880  
197.1, 0-1900 199.1, 0-1920 201.1, 0-1940  
203.1, 0-1960 205.1, 0-1980 207.1, 0-2000  
209.1, 0-2020 211.1, 0-2040 213.1, 0-2060  
215.1, 0-2080 217.1, 0-2100 219.1, 0-2120  
221.1, 0-2140 223.1, 0-2160 225.1, 0-2180  
227.1, 0-2200 229.1, 0-2220 231.1, 0-2240  
233.1, 0-2260 235.1, 0-2280 237.1, 0-2300  
239.1, 0-2320 241.1, 0-2340 243.1, 0-2360  
245.1, 0-2380 247.1, 0-2400 249.1, 0-2420  
251.1, 0-2440 253.1, 0-2460 255.1, 0-2480  
257.1, 0-2500 259.1, 0-2520 261.1, 0-2540  
263.1, 0-2560 265.1, 0-2580 267.1, 0-2600  
269.1, 0-2620 271.1, 0-2640 273.1, 0-2660  
275.1, 0-2680 277.1, 0-2700 279.1, 0-2720  
281.1, 0-2740 283.1, 0-2760 285.1, 0-2780  
287.1, 0-2800 289.1, 0-2820 291.1, 0-2840  
293.1, 0-2860 295.1, 0-2880 297.1, 0-2900  
299.1, 0-2920 301.1, 0-2940 303.1, 0-2960  
305.1, 0-2980 307.1, 0-3000 309.1, 0-3020  
311.1, 0-3040 313.1, 0-3060 315.1, 0-3080  
317.1, 0-3100 319.1, 0-3120 321.1, 0-3140  
323.1, 0-3160 325.1, 0-3180 327.1, 0-3200  
329.1, 0-3220 331.1, 0-3240 333.1, 0-3260  
335.1, 0-3280 337.1, 0-3300 339.1, 0-3320  
341.1, 0-3340 343.1, 0-3360 345.1, 0-3380  
347.1, 0-3400 349.1, 0-3420 351.1, 0-3440  
353.1, 0-3460 355.1, 0-3480 357.1, 0-3500  
359.1, 0-3520 361.1, 0-3540 363.1, 0-3560  
365.1, 0-3580 367.1, 0-3600 369.1, 0-3620  
371.1, 0-3640 373.1, 0-3660 375.1, 0-3680  
377.1, 0-3700 379.1, 0-3720 381.1, 0-3740  
383.1, 0-3760 385.1, 0-3780 387.1, 0-3800  
389.1, 0-3820 391.1, 0-3840 393.1, 0-3860  
395.1, 0-3880 397.1, 0-3900 399.1, 0-3920  
401.1, 0-3940 403.1, 0-3960 405.1, 0-3980  
407.1, 0-4000 409.1, 0-4020 411.1, 0-4040  
413.1, 0-4060 415.1, 0-4080 417.1, 0-4100  
419.1, 0-4120 421.1, 0-4140 423.1, 0-4160  
425.1, 0-4180 427.1, 0-4200 429.1, 0-4220  
431.1, 0-4240 433.1, 0-4260 435.1, 0-4280  
437.1, 0-4300 439.1, 0-4320 441.1, 0-4340  
443.1, 0-4360 445.1, 0-4380 447.1, 0-4400  
449.1, 0-4420 451.1, 0-4440 453.1, 0-4460  
455.1, 0-4480 457.1, 0-4500 459.1, 0-4520  
461.1, 0-4540 463.1, 0-4560 465.1, 0-45

Sec	Buy	Sell	Valy	%	Sec	Buy	Sell	Valy	%	Sec	Buy	Sell	Valy	%	Sec	Buy	Sell	Valy	%	Sec	Buy	Sell	Valy	%
AB GOVT UNIT TRUST LTD	0111 320 970	0111 407 7005			High Income	265.95	216.80	+ 2.70	2.10	Japan Small Cos	116.52	123.99	- 0.01		Japan Growth	35.50	37.72	- 0.01	0.12	Japan Fund	114.90	127.25	- 0.01	0.12
Financial Funds					Standard & Poor's	105.46	110.00	+ 4.54	4.20	Pacific Small Cos	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Global Fund	60.55	62.10	+ 0.55	0.91	Global Fund	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
UK Savings	141.61	151.15	+ 0.42		Small Stocks	152.10	160.00	+ 7.90	2.00	Pacific Large Cos	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		US Equity Fund	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	US Equity Fund	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
UK Savings Fund	115.15	124.15	+ 0.82	2.07	Special Sls	124.10	130.00	+ 5.65	4.20	Large Cos	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		US Bond Fund	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	US Bond Fund	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Do Now Pay Me 20	115.15	124.15	+ 0.82	2.07	Corporate Bonds	127.00	132.00	+ 5.00	4.20	Small Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Cash & Equities Funds	405.65	410.00	+ 0.60	0.15	Corporate Bonds	130.45	135.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
UK Govt Bond	95.75	102.75	+ 0.62	7.17	Government Bonds	133.40	138.00	+ 4.60	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
FTSE 250	175.75	182.00	+ 0.62	3.73	Government Bonds	136.00	141.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Grand Total Units	269.65	284.20	+ 0.62	5.73	Corporate Bonds	138.50	143.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corp Bd	83.64	91.75	+ 0.82	2.27	Corporate Bonds	140.00	145.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Ashley Inv	47.05	57.05	+ 0.82	2.27	Corporate Bonds	141.50	146.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	317.95	327.40	+ 0.82	0.99	Corporate Bonds	143.00	148.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	241.70	256.50	+ 0.82	4.63	Corporate Bonds	144.50	149.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	371.20	395.00	+ 0.82	5.63	Corporate Bonds	146.00	151.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	156.07	166.80	+ 0.82	6.10	Corporate Bonds	147.50	152.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	64.00	69.12	+ 0.82	1.50	Corporate Bonds	149.00	154.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	150.50	155.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	152.00	157.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	124.49	129.00	+ 0.82	4.29	Corporate Bonds	153.50	158.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	47.05	57.05	+ 0.82	2.27	Corporate Bonds	155.00	160.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	166.50	171.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	178.00	183.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	189.50	194.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	191.00	196.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	192.50	197.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	194.00	198.50	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	195.50	200.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	197.00	201.50	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	198.50	203.00	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	101.00	103.60	+ 0.82	2.60	Corporate Bonds	199.00	203.50	+ 4.54	3.30	Corporate Bonds	176.94	183.13	- 0.17		Corporate Bonds	105.50	107.17	+ 0.55	0.51	Corporate Bonds	112.11	127.25	+ 0.01	0.12
Corporate Bonds	1																							



1%  
DISCOUNT  
until 3/4/98

FINANCIAL FUND

# Don't settle for second best

UNIT TRUSTS

New service launch\*

Framlington Financial Fund has a record of consistent outperformance. Over the last five years, a £1,000 investment would have grown by 160% to £2,600.\*

+30%  
in  
1997

We believe that 1998 will be another excellent year for the Fund because the arguments for investment in the financial sector are as strong as ever.

Before you make this year's PEP decision, ask your Financial Adviser for details or ring

0345 023138

Richard Pearson, manager  
of the Framlington  
Financial Fund

Please send me details of the Framlington Financial Fund and PEP. Return the coupon to:  
Framlington Unit Management Limited, Freepost, P.O. Box 2, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 8BR.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not wish to receive details of Framlington products in future, please tick the box  T17/3/98 FF

\* Source: Mergent, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1 January 1998. Launch date 13 October 1996, issued by Framlington Unit Management Limited, member of the Framlington Marketing Group. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of AUTIE. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of the Fund's overseas investments. Investment in single sector funds offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk. The Government has announced that from 1999 tax advantaged schemes, such as PEPs and TESSAs, will be replaced with a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Details of the ISA are currently subject to consultation and the final form is not yet known.

**framlington**

When Nigel Berney, a barrister and property consultant, came to the end of his two-year fixed-rate loan, he was shocked to learn that he would have to pay the Bradford & Bingley Building Society £5,500 to fix again.

Mr Berney was trapped in the web of redemption penalties that lenders use to lock customers into their mortgages. Even though a fixed-rate period may have ended, lenders can continue to charge a redemption penalty for years afterwards if the borrower wants to move mortgages or change terms.

Many borrowers are under the illusion that so long as they stay with their lender, they can switch without additional cost to a new fixed rate once their fixed period has expired.

However, the small print of fixed-rate mortgage contracts specifies redemption penalty periods that often run to nearly five years. So, a borrower who took out a two-year fix can find that even two years after the fixed period has expired, or more than four years into the life of the loan, he faces a penalty charge. The penalty varies markedly between lenders, with worst-case scenario of nine months' interest, but is more usually three months' interest or 3 to 5 per cent of the outstanding mortgage balance.

Lenders rarely forbid a borrower from switching to a new fixed loan, but the potentially huge cost of an early redemption penalty can easily wipe out the gain of switching to a lower fixed rate.

Mr Berney remortgaged his home at Kings Langley, Hert-



Nigel Berney had a shock after his loan's fixed-rate period

fordshire, two years ago, switching his £130,000 loan to Bradford & Bingley. Last month, the fixed period ended and he asked his B&B adviser about moving to a new fixed rate rather than falling back to the society's current 8.45 per cent variable rate.

Mr Berney said: "At first, they were very helpful and said there would be no problem. But then he said, 'Hang on, there's a penalty of six months' interest, or about £3,500.' To make matters worse, it then became apparent that because Mr

on the society's standard variable rate.

Should Mr Berney have spotted the scale of penalties in the terms of the mortgage before he agreed to remortgage with the B&B? He said: "I'm sure it was in the small print somewhere, but I cannot recall being made aware of it."

Rex Kirk, of the B&B, said: "When we price a product we have to take into account the time a borrower will stay with us. If our mortgages did not have these early redemption penalties, we would have to push the rate up. We are very clear about putting information about penalties upfront and we do not hide them."

"When someone comes off a fixed rate, they also get a 0.25 per cent credit off our 8.45 per cent standard variable rate."

However, a split has arisen in the mortgage market on charging redemption penalties after six years. Lenders such as Abbey National, Lloyds C&G and Woolwich charge the penalties on short-term fixes for up to five years. However, Halifax, the Nationwide and Barclays offer homebuyers two options on fixed-rate loans. For example, under option one, Barclays is offering a two-year 7.79 per cent fix until May 31 2000, with no lock-in after that. At that date, a customer can switch to another fixed rate or even another lender without extra cost. Under option two, the bank offers a two-year rate of 6.89 per cent, but tells customers that the lock-in lasts four years, during which early redemption will cost up to 3 per cent of the remaining balance.

## Pressure mounts for tougher

Pressure is mounting for tougher rules to govern the selling of home loans, in spite of the extension earlier this year of the mortgage code to intermediaries who arrange finance for home buyers. About half of the loans now sold are arranged by middlemen, such as mortgage brokers or financial advisers. But there are concerns that they may not always fully reveal the penalties payable when fixed and discounted rate loans are redeemed early.

The Office of Fair Trading and the Consumers' Association believe that the

mortgage code does not afford sufficient protection to borrowers and that the complexity of mortgages means they should be covered by the regulatory regime that covers savings and investments.

These bodies argue that borrowers are not always told of the hazards of redeeming their fixed-interest loans early, nor are they told of the fees that intermediaries can earn from placing the mortgage with a particular lender. "Procurement fees" have become more and more commonplace, and vary from £250 to 1

per cent of the mortgage. On a big loan these fees could run into hundreds, perhaps even thousands of pounds.

When selling life insurance, pensions and investments, middlemen must inform the client whether they are authorised to offer the products of more than one company and disclose their commission. They must also make clients aware of the financial penalties associated with cashing in the products early. The mortgage code requires a much lower level of disclosure from intermediaries.

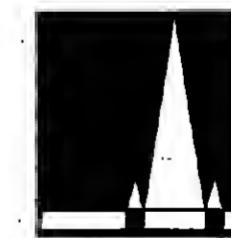
Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to

## Make the most of this tax year. Apply before April 5.<sup>+</sup>

Not all the best companies are British, which is why not all of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP is invested in British companies. Unlike most other tracking PEPs, we invest in over 2,500 companies worldwide, to give excellent potential for growth.

- Growth since launch in July 1996 of 34.8%\* TAX-FREE\*, with a historic return of 10.8%\* over 5 years.
- 75% of your investment tracks UK companies and 25% tracks companies in 27 other stock markets worldwide.
- No initial charges and no charge for transfer from other PEPs.
- ISA friendly.
- Apply before April 5<sup>+</sup> to maximise your tax-free allowance.

\*Applications must be received by Friday April 3.



NORWICH UNION

*Direct*

No one protects more.

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

I would like more information on the Norwich Global Tracking PEP.

Please complete this coupon in BLOCK CAPITALS and return it to: Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

NRN 01603 820000

If all the world's top companies were British, you wouldn't need our Global Tracking PEP.

CALL NOW  
**0800 0562450**

quoting reference number III-62  
Lines open weekdays 8am-8pm, weekends 9am-6pm

\*Current Government proposals mean that from April 1999, PEPs will be replaced by a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). It is envisaged that you will be able to transfer up to £5,000 from existing PEPs into ISA. Any investment above this amount could be subject to tax. Investors with PEP mortgages particularly should review their situation when the rates are known. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and prices can go down as well as up; the performance of PEPs invested in equity based assets will reduce from 1999 due to the loss of a tax advantage. The PEP is a medium to long term investment. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will not relate to home insurance products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your information pack, they sell performance of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP, fees, gross and net returns for 1997-98. The PEP is not available until July 1998. If you had invested £1,000 on 1/1/98 to the underlying funds of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP (in the same proportion as the PEP), your investment would have been worth £1,010 (a growth of 1%). On 31/12/98, assuming the income tax benefit of a PEP stays constant, in certain circumstances information may be passed to other insurance companies or professional experts acting on our behalf. Details that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes, such as market research and contacting you regarding your insurance or investment needs. If you wish to opt out of the Norwich Union group marketing, please write to Norwich Union, FREEPOST, Marketing Enquiry Team, PO Box 999, Sheffield S1 8EE. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The Personal Investment Authority and IMRO regulate Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited.

مدون العامل



# 1868.

A vintage year for PEPs.

(Now - two bottles for the price of one!)

Become an investor in the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PEP by 27th March and your 1998/99 PEP will cost you nothing in initial fees or extra administration charges.\* Our PEPs give you tax-free access to an international spread of investment expertise, built upon the experience we have gained from investing successfully in stockmarkets around the world since 1868. Why not request our brochure for more information?

Phone 01189 828 801 or Fax 01189 344 622 anytime quoting the coupon code, or return the coupon.

**Foreign & Colonial**

For Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 5NW.	
Title	Initial Surname
Address	
Postcode	Code E7388T

\*Applies to large sum investors only. 1868 was the year Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust was founded. This is a part qualifying Trust for PEP purposes and may be held in our Investment Trust PEP. PEPs are not first introduced in the Finance Act of 1986. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by MIRO and the Personal Investment Authority) is the PEP manager and Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the Investment Trust. Annual fees are deducted from income where available otherwise shares in the Plan may be sold to cover fees. Tax benefits may vary as a result of statutory changes and their value will depend on individual circumstances.

Foreign & Colonial invented the investment trust in 1868 "to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalist".

## Eternal truths just do not last

Dictators are not the only ones who rewrite history. From family affairs to corporate conflict and the sweep of economies and markets, past events are constantly being censored, edited and re-written to suit prevailing opinion or interests. Even memory is vulnerable to this process. Busy folk are prisoners of the accepted view unless they have records with which to challenge the PR paint-roller that spreads it.

Nowhere is this truer than in the financial markets. Even today, it is often assumed that the Wall Street crash of 1929 or even the mini-crash of 1987 came out of the blue. They didn't.

A glance at what was said at the time shows that stock markets shrugged off worsening economic trends. Adjustment was then harsh once preference could no longer be sustained.

The most convenient truth in investment is that shares will always be a good bet in the medium term, so do not worry about short-term fluctuations. This has proved sound advice and still is. But it is not strictly true.

Look at those inconvenient records. Suppose that you had been able to buy an index-tracking UK unit trust in 1972. You would have stood no chance of getting your money back before the autumn of 1977, even

ignoring the charges. Most of the time, you would have nursed horrendous losses. After a full ten years, you might have made a capital profit of 30 per cent. Over that decade the retail prices index more than trebled. So much for shares being a great hedge against inflation. Good yes, great no.

Inflation is not the problem in Japan, where the Nikkei 225 share index stands about 55 per cent lower than at the end of the previous decade. That was a speculative peak. The Nikkei plunged by nearly 60 per cent in a couple of years and has wandered aimlessly ever since.

Experts differ about whether Tokyo has been a bear market all eight years. For investors, it scarcely matters. You did not have to buy at the top to come a cropper. If you bought the index at any time in 1987, more than a

decade ago, you would still show a heavy loss, even bigger for the millions who bought in 1988 or 1989.

Few claim to have foreseen this disaster. A glance at some contemporary records, in this case the thoughts of Japanese analysts at Kleinwort Benson, is still instructive. As early as March 1989, the economist Richard Jerram wrote: "Evidence is pointing to a peak in the economic cycle." In June 1989, the firm's analysts called "the end of the liquidity driven market", telling buyers to be choosy.

By August, KB headlined: "Low real interest rates and tight economy makes continued underperformance likely." Up to 15 per cent should be held in cash "although we believe the short-term momentum is upwards". It was. If investors had followed advice to sell out in March or June

they would have saved a fortune in the long run, but missed out on a final 20 per cent rise in share prices.

This euphoric bubble affected even the analysts. In December, they noted "worrying signs" such as a surge from investment trusts into money funds. They reckoned profits would slow and that the market was discounting good news, but were less cautious than before. After Nemesis struck, the analysts tended to revert to eternal truths. Things should be OK in the medium term (they aren't) and Japanese shares and bonds move in the same direction (they haven't).

The analysts emerge with credit, but never said sell, sell, sell. You cannot stray too far from the consensus if you want to keep your credibility. Raging bulls or ferocious bears may prove right eventually, but if their timing is way out, as it usually is, few will be listening by the time they should. Trends overrun and the prevailing consensus is often strongest when about to be smashed.

If the logic of the facts conflicts with market sentiment, or with prevailing political wisdom, back logic, even if you look stupid in the short run. Fortunately, today's raging boom has plenty of sceptics. They are the best protection against disaster.

## Revenue fines furore hots up

Accountants demand inquiry, says Susan Emmett

The row between accountants and the Inland Revenue over self-assessment, first highlighted by *The Times*, intensified this week as it emerged that significant numbers of penalty notices are being sent to taxpayers who had filed their returns on time. The blunders have brought calls for an investigation of the way in which the Revenue processes tax forms.

Last week the Revenue post-

ed 670,000 penalty notices for the £100 fines for those who failed to return forms by the final self-assessment deadline of January 31. But accountants fear that their confidence is being undermined by Revenue mistakes.

Some have also claimed that clients who did not return their forms by the due date are

not receiving penalty notices. Both large and small firms have come under fire from disgruntled clients who have received 'fines' and accountants fear that their clients' confidence is being undermined by Revenue mistakes.

It is still too early to say how many taxpayers received penalty notices in error, although some accountants estimate that about 20 per cent of their clients were sent a fine notice despite filing on time. However, one small accountant in Sidcup said that about 75 per cent of his clients were sent penalty notices in error.

Peter Back, director of SimpliTAX, a subsidiary of the accountants Horwath Clark Whittlehill, which specialises in tax returns, said that 20 per cent of his clients received penalty notices in error, while up to 15 per cent of clients who did not file have yet to be fined.

Mr Back said: "It's clear that a number of those penalty notices should not have gone out. After each major stage of the self-assessment process there have been failings. All indicates that there is something fundamentally wrong with the system."

"I think that some real questions have got to be asked. There is a case for some sort of inquiry. The Revenue expects taxpayers to meet their obligations in full but the Revenue is not meeting its obligations."

The problem mostly affects accountants who either posted or filed their clients' forms by

hand. Those who filed electronically have emerged unscathed.

Paul Harmsworth, managing director of Tax Link, the self-assessment tax calculation specialists based in Exeter, said that none of his clients whose returns were filed electronically received penalty notices, but fines were sent to 25 per cent of clients whose returns were filed on paper because of previous software problems with the Revenue's computer.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "I am aware of it happening, but I don't get the impression that it is a major phenomenon. Our apologies go to those who did receive a penalty notice but handed in the form on time. There was a big rush towards January 31 and there were instances of human error, but not on a mass scale."



Well they were warned: Rory McGrath and Hector, the mascot told everyone about the deadlines

## The Johnson Fry PEP Challenge.

Quickly now, can you name any PEP managers with a reputation for performance?

No prizes – and no surprises – if top names like Fidelity, Jupiter, Perpetual and Schroder come to mind.

Now here's the challenge. Think of another PEP manager with a stronger current record in UK Equity unit trusts than any of them.

The answer – as the table clearly demonstrates – is Johnson Fry. And the full evidence is laid out for your perusal in our thought-provoking and unusually readable new PEP brochure, appropriately titled 'Test Against The Best'.

Whatever you do, don't choose a PEP until you've read it. For your copy, call us free on 0800 783 4343 (our lines are open 24 hours a day), or return the coupon.

**0800 783 4343**

Johnson Fry Securities Limited, 20 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PZ. Internet: <http://www.johnsonfry.jif.co.uk>

Please send me a copy of your 'Test Against The Best' brochure. Return to Johnson Fry, FREEPOST, Bristol BS38 7PT. Telephone 0800 783 4343.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ TM0703b

**Important Note:** This advertisement is issued by Johnson Fry Securities Limited, regulated by SFA and a Member of The London Stock Exchange. Johnson Fry Slater Growth was launched on 21 November 1987. Over the five years to 31 December 1997, Johnson Fry Slater Growth, Jupiter UK Growth, Schroder UK Enterprise, Perpetual UK Growth and Fidelity UK Growth have grown by 147.0%, 179.0%, 134.6%, 125.5% and 122.0% respectively. Since launch on 11 October 1995 to 31 December 1997, Johnson Fry UK Growth has grown by 48.5%. All figures shown are to 31 December 1997 and are calculated on an offer-to-bid basis, gross income reinvested. Source: Reuters Hindsight. The figures in the table have been rounded down to the nearest pound. The value of units and the income (if any) from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Because of the initial charge you may lose money if you withdraw in the early years. You should regard an investment in the Trust as a long term investment. Johnson Fry Slater Growth is likely to hold fewer shares than is common in other unit trusts and may acquire shares in companies with relatively small market capitalisations and which may not be readily marketable. These factors may increase the risks of the Trust. PEPs and unit trusts may not be suitable investments for everyone and if you have any doubts you should seek independent advice before investing. The value of the current PEP tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. A consultative paper recently issued by the Government on the new Individual Savings Account (ISA) will, if enacted in its current form, withdraw the tax reliefs available to PEPs from 5 October 1999. It is, however, proposed that PEPs and TESSAs up to a value of £50,000 per person may be transferred into ISAs. Data Protection Act 1988. Your name will be added to a mailing list which may be used by us or associated companies to keep you well informed of any new and existing products. If you prefer not to receive such details, please tick the box □



## Peps - pros and cons

This week's issue of *Investors Chronicle* includes a detailed survey of Peps. An essential guide, it will help you understand the ins and outs of Peps – which are more involved than they appear.

We look at the complete range of Peps available. Do popular brand Peps live up to their reputations? Find out with our exposé of the big names' approach to investment and comprehensive performance tables.

You'll discover why Peps should be part of a balanced portfolio. Is their bias to UK investment good for returns? And what are the issues surrounding the Individual Savings Scheme? For the mature investor we compare Peps to pensions and look at Peps specifically for the elderly.

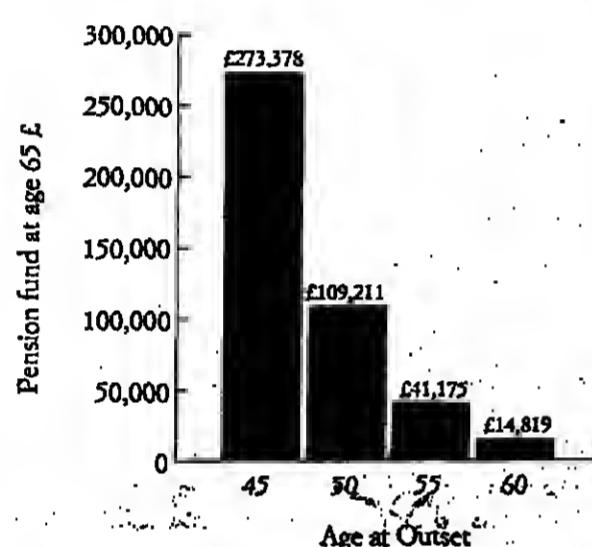
*Investors Chronicle*, complete with a 50-page Peps Survey, is on sale on 6th March from your newsagent. Price £2.50.

**FT**  
FINANCIAL TIMES  
[www.investorchronicle.co.uk](http://www.investorchronicle.co.uk)

# TAKE FIVE MINUTES AND YOU COULD DOUBLE YOUR PENSION

A typical Equitable pension fund has doubled in value every five years, so the sooner you start saving the better off you will be when you retire. Put it another way. If you delay for five years, your retirement income could be halved. So five minutes spent reading on could well be worth your while.

In the chart below, we show the huge difference in the value of a £200 per month personal pension plan on your 65th birthday, depending on the age at which you start contributing.



This shows the actual open market option funds for a £200 per month Equitable Life with-profits personal pension plan as at 1 July 1997, pension benefits taken at exact age 65. Source: Money Management, October 1997.

Of course, the final value of the investment is not guaranteed.

Time, however, is not the only factor which determines how much you receive. The choice of pension company also makes a big difference in two important respects:

First, how much of your money disappears in charges before it can be invested.

Second, how well the balance is invested.

At The Equitable Life, we know our with-profits charges are the very lowest and our investment performance is amongst the very best.

We'd like everyone else to know it too.

#### NO MIDDLEMEN, NO SHAREHOLDERS. LOW COSTS

We have never paid commission to third parties. As a mutual life company, the oldest in the world in fact, we don't have any shareholders to take a slice of the profits. And we keep all our internal expenses to an absolute minimum.

Three good reasons why we are renowned for our low costs.

It's also why an annual Planned Savings' survey in October 1997 once again shows The Equitable Life as having the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all companies surveyed across the UK.

What is important is that we pass these savings on to our clients in the form of unusually low charges, so more of your money can be invested for the future.

#### IN A CLASS OF OUR OWN

A simple rating system, suggested in an Office of Fair Trading discussion document, allows people to make a straight comparison between pension products by giving each one a series of ratings, on a scale of A+ to C-, both for past performance and charges. A recent survey using this rating method showed The Equitable to be well ahead of the field.

Company	PERSONAL PENSIONS RATINGS	
	Past Performance Age 65 birthday - 50	Own charge projections age next birthday - 50
The Equitable Life	A+AB	A+A+A+
AXA Equity & Law	CCA	BBC
Britannia Life	***	CBB
CIS	BA*	CBA+
Clerical Medical	BAB	BAA
Commercial Union	*CC	ABA
Eagle Star	BAA	CBA
Ecclesiastical	***	***
Friends Provident	BBB	BC-A
General Accident	A*A	BAB
Legal & General	CBB	AAB
London Life	**C-	***
MGM Assurance	A+A+C	BBC-
National Mutual	BBB	BBB
Norwich Union	BBA	BAA
NPI	BBC-	BAB
Prudential	***	A+AC
RNPFN	ABA+	CC-A+
Royal London	BAA	BBC
Royal Sun Alliance	CC-C	ABC
Scottish Amicable	BCB	BBC
Scottish Equitable	BCB	CBA
Scottish Friendly	BBB	C-CC
Scottish Life	BBB	CBB
Scottish Mutual	BBA	ABC
Scottish Provident	*AC	***
Scottish Widows	BCB	ABB
Standard Life	BBC	ABC
Sun Life	CBB	BBB
Swiss Life	CC*	***
Wesleyan Assurance	*AA	BBC

\* Denotes where no rating has been given due to company not having provided a figure.

Past performance - the three ratings refer to transfer value after 5 years, transfer value after 10 years and retirement fund (incl terminal bonus) respectively. All figures are calculated as at 1.4.97, assuming policies taken out six months before next birthday. Monthly premium £30. Retirement age 65.

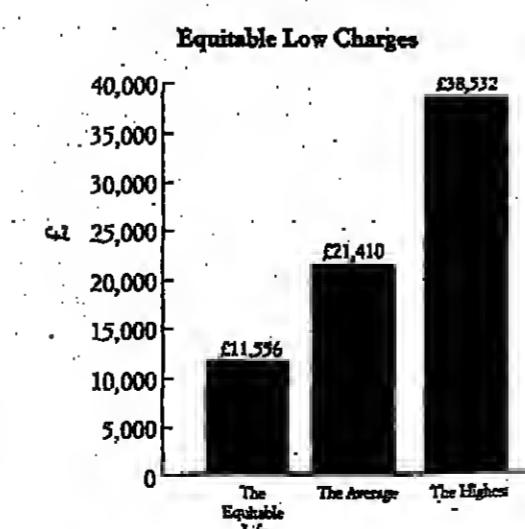
Own charge projections - the three ratings refer to transfer value at end of year 5, transfer value at end of year 20 and retirement fund respectively. Projections are based on plans commencing 1.4.97 and are in accordance with the PIA's projection rules, using the mid-point assumptions. Investment growth rate before charges 9% pa. RPI and AEI inflation rates are 4.5 and 6% pa respectively. Retirement age 65. Monthly premium £100.

Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey, May 1997.

#### OUR LOW CHARGES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The chart below shows the effect that different companies' charges will have on a £200 a month with-profits pension plan over 20 years.

#### HOW MUCH A PENSION IS REDUCED BY CHARGES OVER 20 YEARS



These figures relate to projected open market option funds as at 1 July 1997 for new style with-profits personal pension plans for a man aged 45 due to retire at age 65. Monthly contributions £200. Assumed annual growth rate 9%. Source: Money Management, October 1997.

Because we charge barely half the industry average, the value of your fund could be increased by thousands of pounds.

#### THE MOST CONSISTENT INVESTMENT RECORD

When choosing your pension provider, surely it makes sense to look for a consistently strong performer. After all, almost every company has some sort of success story to tell - perhaps one of their funds went through a brief purple patch at some stage. But how often have they been able to repeat it?

Annual surveys by Planned Savings magazine put the whole subject of long-term investment into perspective. Since the first survey in 1974, The Equitable Life's with-profits pensions have had 45 top ten placings out of a possible 56. Our nearest challenger has managed just 31.

Remember though, past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Contributions to the Society's pension

products are invested in its pension business fund. Since July 1997, pension funds can no longer recover tax credits on the dividends from UK equities but they continue to enjoy freedom from tax on capital gains and other income.

#### MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

Not everyone is in a position to contribute a regular amount. And many can't be sure when they will retire, so they want to be able to change their retirement date if necessary - without penalty.

No problem.

With an Equitable pension, you are free to increase or decrease your contributions at any time. And you can bring your retirement date forward or delay it, as you choose. Unlike some other companies, all without penalty.

#### IN SHORT

When it comes to pension planning you can't start too soon. The longer you leave it, the worse off you will be when you retire. But although time is of the essence, it is not the whole story. So choose your pension provider very carefully.

For more details by post and by telephone of our low-cost high-performance pension plans, call us on 0990 38 48 58 or complete the coupon below.

[www.equitable.co.uk](http://www.equitable.co.uk)

FOR YOUR SECURITY YOUR TELEPHONE CALL MAY BE RECORDED  
INFORMATION/ADVICE WILL ONLY BE GIVEN  
ON EQUITABLE GROUP PRODUCTS  
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY  
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR.

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans.

I am self employed

I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme

TMCC8B

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box



**The Equitable Life**  
You profit from our principles

12 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

# UP

## UP 53.5% IN TWO YEARS TAX-FREE.

# BEAT

### BEAT THE FT-SE ALL-SHARE INDEX.

FUND	ENTRY CHARGES	EXIT CHARGES	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT FEE	GROWTH OVER 2 YRS	GROWTH OVER 3 YRS
FIDELITY MONEYBUILDER GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+53.5%	+62.8%
VIRGIN GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+46.8%	N/A
LAG UK INDEX	0%	0%	0.50%	+46.2%	+50.5%
FT-SE ALL-SHARE INDEX	N/A	N/A	N/A	+45.8%	+53.4%

MONEYBUILDER GROWTH PEP

The last two years have seen highs on the stockmarket and gains for tracker funds. But it's been even better for Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP.

\$3,000 invested in this PEP two years ago would now be worth \$4,605, way ahead of the FT-SE All Share Index, and high profile PEPs like the Virgin Growth PEP.

Good Fortune? No way. We believe it's down to hard work. We build our portfolios, stock by stock, with our analysts and fund managers making over 46,000 company contacts every year worldwide. In fact, no one explores businesses more thoroughly.

PEP/ISA HOTLINE 9AM TO 5PM, 7 DAYS  
**0800 41 41 33**  
www.fidelity.co.uk

It's what makes our PEPs so stockpickin' good. Don't just take our word for it, ask the experts. We've just been voted Unit Trust Group of the Year by Micropal, and we've recently won the Money Observer 'Premier Group' Award.

But it's not just to do with consistent, strong performance. It's also to do with value. Unlike many other PEPs, none of our MoneyBuilder range charges you an entry or exit fee.\* Our annual management charges are amongst the very lowest you can find, and when ISAs come we promise to transfer your PEP into a Fidelity ISA on request and free of any conversion charges. So if you want a low cost, award

winning PEP, phone now, speak to your IFA or send off the coupon.

#### BEST UNIT TRUST GROUP Standard & Poor's International Awards 1997 ★ PREMIER GROUP AWARD Money Observer Awards 1997

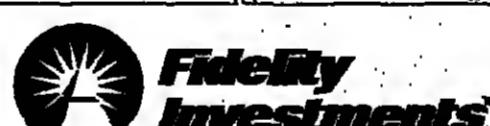
To: Fidelity Investments PO Box 88 Tonbridge Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 33.  
 Please send me information on Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP.  
 Please send me information on the Fidelity MoneyBuilder range.

We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ DMS4



#### CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?

**IT'S EASY TO GET MORE**  
We regularly pay up to 30% MORE\* than the surrender value for profits endowment and whole life policies.

Life Company Offered £16,311  
Policy Portfolio Price £21,100

Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio PEP today.

Reputed by the Personal Investment Authority.

TEL: 0181 343 4567 (Times 0900-1800) 0181 343 4567  
Gard House, Arndale Avenue, London N3 2JU

#### Cashing in your Endowment Policy?

**More** than money.

Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.  
London/South: 01222 553333  
South West: 0177 839 8827  
North: 0133 239 1941  
Scotland: 0141 353 0311  
Prices quote TTDUS

Call today, 24 hours a day.

Beale Dobie  
A family business

#### Your Life Assurance can be cheaper

Policy  
Choice  
Direct



Our Unique Service is FREE

- Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- Our FREE Listings let you compare the rates of the top companies
- We arrange your policy
- We refund your first two months premium

**0500 813913**  
www.policychoice.co.uk

Not all companies and insurance are suitable for everyone. Please always seek professional advice before taking out any insurance.

We do not give financial advice. Policy Choice Direct PLC is an appointed representative of Par Financial Services Ltd, registered by the Personal Investment Authority for insurance services.

hop to it

The Martin Currie range of unit trusts gives you access to investment opportunities round the clock, round the world. Our International Growth Fund, for example, has given investors an average annual return of 16.4% since 1990.\* To find out why more and more people are hopping to it, clip the coupon or call

For more details about Martin Currie's range of unit trusts, send the coupon to Martin Currie Unit Trusts Ltd, Freepost, Dumoon, Argyll PA23 7UZ.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WARNING: Please remember that past performance is no guide to the future. Market and currency movements may cause the value of units, and the income from them, to fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested when you decide to sell your investment. \*Source: Micropal. Day to sell basis with net income revaluated from 1 January 1989 to 1 January 1990 (£). The equivalent five year figure is 11.1% per annum. Martin Currie Unit Trusts Limited, Dumoon, Argyll PA23 7UZ. Registered by DIFID and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AIFIA.

**0500 61 62 65**

QUOTING REF: TT 7/8

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS

**MARTIN CURRIE**  
Growing investments since 1881

## Internet paves the way for cyber investor

Susan Emmett on financial tools available on a screen near you

So you want to be a cyber investor but fear getting lost on the information superhighway? Millions of households are online and many users are launching into cyberspace in search of financial information.

There are many websites offering financial data, share prices and business news, and most high street financial service providers now have websites. Often they amount to little more than advertising or an electronic brochure giving details of various financial products. However, the Nationwide and TSB offer online banking and Lloyds and Barclays will follow soon.

The greatest revolution in cyberspace has been the increase in independent sites offering financial information and share prices. Since the London Stock Exchange relaxed its rules last summer, the number of sites offering share price information has mushroomed. Many provide the service free with a 20-minute delay. Up-to-the-minute prices require a subscription.

Some sophisticated sites offer portfolio management facilities and links to execution-only stockbrokers, putting armchair investors in the driving seat. If it is your first surf, do not expect

all to be perfect at first. One wrong turn, and you will not find facts on Peps but will end up download-

ing reams of irrelevant data. Follow the right signs, and you will have much of the information available to City experts at your fingertips.

Q What are the tools of the trade?

A As financial websites are using more and more technological wizardry, it pays to get relatively up-to-date kit. You will need a PC, a modem and an account with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), which provides the link between you and the World Wide Web. If you opt for an outdated system with a slow modem, you will be stuck in frustrating traffic jams rather than cruising the information superhighway.

Q So, will it all cost me a fortune?

A Experts say that Internet access will be revolutionised by set-top boxes that will let you surf the Net via your television set. The contraptions are expected to cost about £200 and as a result, one in four homes is predicted to be online by 2000. The boxes are yet to appear in shops and the few available are slow and cumbersome.

For now, expect to spend £800 on a PC and £50 on a decent modem, although they can be cheaper. The fastest modems can be as much as £90.

A multitude of ISPs are competing to take you into cyberspace. America Online (AOL) is the biggest closely followed by CompuServe. There are many smaller ones and the Nationwide will become the first financial services organisation to provide a link this summer. An ISP account can cost anything from £5 to £15 a month, depending on usage. Unlimited access is dearer. The good news is that the account is linked to you, not the machine, so you can use it on more than one PC.

Q Is it worth it? What can I get from the Net that I

cannot find elsewhere? A Lot of the financial information on the Internet can be found in the financial press and in libraries more cheaply and sometimes more easily.

Q So, where is the best place to start?

A A financial directory will get you on the road. One starting point is the Financial Information Net Directory (Find), at www.find.co.uk. It follows the Yellow Pages format and financial sites in the UK are grouped under headings such as Peps. Alternatively, sites such as Yahoo on http://finance.yahoo.co.uk offer 20-minute delay-free share price information, which is useful for quick reference. Up to the minute share information is available for a fee on sites such as Interactive Investor International www.iii.co.uk. Electronic Share Information www.esi.co.uk, InfoTrade on www.infotrade.co.uk and Datastream MarketEye Premium on www.marketeye.co.uk.

Q Is it possible to trade shares online?

A Investors are on the verge of being able to trade completely electronically, without human intervention, a process that is current practice in America. At the moment, a few financial websites offer "gateways" or "trading floors" to brokers. These include InfoTrade and ESI, which provide links to brokers such as Charles Schwab, Caterdeal and Stocktrade, and more recently Datastream/ICV, where links to smaller brokers can be found on the MarketEye site on www.marketeye.co.uk.

Q What about Peps and collective funds?

A Charles Schwab, the investment retailer, says that in America 50 per cent of its transactions are done electronically. In Britain, Inland Revenue rules require that Pep applications must have a real signature on a piece of paper. However, investors buying Peps or unit trusts from Fidelity Investments can top them up on the Internet by Switch or Delta card on www.webexpress.fidelity.co.uk. First-time Pep investors can shop around sites such as Interactive Investors International and Moneyworld, which offer information and data and provide a gateway to individual product providers.

Q Can I use the Internet to keep track of my investments abroad?

A If you invest in the American markets, you are well served by the Internet. A number of sites offer information on American companies. Yahoo has links to the United States financial site (http://quote.yahoo.com) with 15-minute delayed feeds on all trading stocks on the New York and Nasdaq exchanges.

If you want to keep track of investments further afield, Market Eye will come in handy. The site lists 32,000 international share prices in up to 60 countries, including all the markets in the European Union. New York, Tokyo, Sidney, Singapore, Hong Kong and São Paulo are among those covered.

control post profit by piling them low and selling them dear

Pension

دعا من الارض

## GO IT ALONE

# Boost profits by piling them low and selling them dear

You have set up your business, people seem to want what you are selling and you are happy with the way things are going. But there's one thing you would like to improve upon — the amount of profit you make.

Many businesses set up initially selling their goods or services too cheaply, partly because they want to attract customers and partly because of the fear factor of failing because prices are excessive.

If your business is not making as much money as you think it should then there are three main ways to raise profitability — two short term and one longer term. If you want to make an almost immediate difference to your profits you can cut costs, or increase prices.

**COST CONTROL**

This is the most effective way to short-term higher profitability. Because of this it is useful to get into the habit of calculating the extra sales you need to pay for an increase in costs. For example, you decide to advertise in a local newspaper at a cost of £200 a week

and because you make £20 clear profit on each sale, you know that to justify the extra expense you have to sell ten more items a week.

Once you are in this mode you will quickly equate a reduction in costs to extra profitability, a good discipline for any businessman. The best way to keep close tabs on your costs is to run a tight cash-control system and regularly review your business expenses.

Many people believe costs vary only very occasionally but this is not necessarily true and what cost £100 to buy in last month might be available now for £95, so keep a comprehensive list of all your suppliers' charges and review it at least once a month.

Pay close attention to costs and although things like business rates are non-negotiable, other overheads like rent, telephone bills, insurance premiums, stationery expenses and travel costs can often be cut by looking for alternative suppliers or taking advantage of special offers.

In business, most things are negotiable and it is worthwhile trying to renegotiate costs with your suppliers as often as you think you can.

You should also look at the whole of your business to see where else you might be able to cut your costs. Consider your stock levels and ask if it would be possible to reduce

### Cash tied up in stock that is waiting to be used could be put to better use

raising prices to increase profits will be hard and you might need to look at other methods of increasing how much your business makes.

Try to avoid giving discounts and if you are offering money off for bulk sales, stick to the quantity set before reducing your unit price. Whatever happens, most businesses are justified in raising prices in line with inflation and now this is almost expected.

**SELLING MORE**

While it is almost impossible to double prices or halve costs, it might be viable over time to double the amount you sell. Do not try to raise sales by cutting prices because this will achieve little except a price war with competitors and pressure on profit margins.

There are four main ways to sell more — improve your company's image, advertise, improve the skills of the people who sell your goods or services or seek new markets or products. All of these factors come at a cost and you need to weigh this against potential long-term benefits to your business. However, remember that increased sales usually means more working capital and can have a negative impact on your cashflow, so make sure you have the funds before going ahead.

JOHN GIVENS

In the July Budget, the Chancellor announced that tax exempt savings schemes will change in April 1999. As a result you may no longer be entitled to enjoy the current tax benefits offered by a PEP. However, the Government has indicated that a new tax privileged vehicle is to be introduced — the Individual Savings Account, or ISA for short. Full details have yet to be confirmed and we are currently in discussion with the Government on the future implications for PEPs. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. The value to you of the benefits will depend on your own circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Source: M&G Statistics, offer to bid gross income returned to 31.12.97. Top quartile performance over 5 years = 51.59%. Source: M&G M&G Growth and Income sector. \*\*Source: M&G, 1st means top quartile performance to 1.198, gross income returned for Blue Chip over 5 years and for Managed Income since launch on 1.3.93 and Corporate Bond since launch on 25.9.94. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by the FSA and the Personal Investment Authority).

# Why does money grow in our Blue Chip PEP? Look at the Fundamentals.

If you're looking to make your money grow, why look at blue chips? The facts speak for themselves. These hundred or so well known companies are the biggest, brightest and best in the land. They possess strong management and control some of the most successful brands ever created. In a nutshell, they're ideal for the heart of your portfolio.

M&G's Blue Chip PEP Fund — part of our Fundamentals range — will help you take advantage of their strength.

### EXCELLENT VALUE

There's no initial charge, every penny you invest goes straight to work, and there's no withdrawal fee either. The dealing spread was 0.5% of 2.1.98.

### INVESTING IN BRITAIN'S BEST COMPANIES

Our Blue Chip PEP Fund is designed to pinpoint the cream of Britain's companies. Currently, you could be tapping into the success of such famous names as Shell, Glaxo Wellcome and BT. As you can see from the panel, those who have already invested are reaping handsome rewards, this fund is a top performer in its sector.\*

Forecasts for the medium and long term future of blue chip companies remain bright, with rising dividends expected. These can be taken as a tax free income, or reinvested to increase your investment.

### LONG TERM INVESTMENT GOALS

Whether you're saving for school fees, or simply need an extra pool of savings to dip into when you retire, the merits of a stake in 'Great Britain PLC' are plain to see.

Why look any further for a long term total return? There's fundamentally only one choice — The M&G Blue Chip PEP Fund.

For full details and application forms, Call:

**0345 321 015**



Every time you fill your trolley at the supermarket, you're probably supporting a fair few of Britain's blue chip companies.

**15.4%** average annual growth over 5 years\*

NO INITIAL CHARGE  
NO WITHDRAWAL FEE

We'll even fill in your application for you. Call:

**0345 221 422**

### The M&G ISAbility Promise

Having founded the UK unit trust industry in 1933, M&G has grown to become one of the country's largest providers of PEPs. We now manage over £3 billion for tax conscious investors. With the Government's proposals to replace PEPs with ISAs — Individual Savings Accounts — in 1999, M&G was the first fund manager to make a public commitment on the issue — the M&G ISAbility promise. To ensure a smooth transition for our PEP holders, we promise to make no penalty charge when you transfer your M&G PEP holding to our ISA.

All the more reason to take advantage of this year's PEP allowance as soon as possible.

*Time is running out to claim your PEP allocation for this tax year, so don't miss out.*

If you prefer to contact us by post, please complete and return to:  
The M&G Group, BRISTOL BS38 7ET. No salesperson will call.

Yes, I would like details of The Fundamentals PEP fund range including The M&G Blue Chip PEP Fund.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Initials: Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Ref:

**M&G**

# Pensions made simple.

You can pick up the phone and get pensions

information or advice

and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 2888119

**0345 6789 10**

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

Looking good for your pension.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products, issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

STYLICLASS



...FROM A NAME YOU KNOW

**9.4%\***  
p.a.

Looking for the potential to make your savings grow? Take a look at the Scottish Widows Premier Savings Plan. It's a with profits endowment plan that's designed to turn an affordable monthly saving into a substantial lump sum in any time from ten to twenty years.

Over the last ten years, we have achieved an average growth of up to 9.4% p.a. - if a man aged 24 had started saving £50 a month ten years ago, today he could be receiving a cheque for £9,772! You can save from £50 a month from ten up to twenty years. So if you want to make your savings work harder, find out more today.

Issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

CALL NOW ON 0845 845 5000

REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

NO COST • NO OBLIGATION • NO SALESPERSON WILL CALL

Return to Scottish Widows, Customer Services Department, FREEPOST EH2900, 16 Bernard Street, Edinburgh EH6 6PF.

Open to UK residents only. Only one pen and pencil set per household.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)

First Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Telephone No. (work/home)

Date of Birth (Maximum age at entry 54) 19

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box.  For your protection your code to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored.

Reference number 31881

\*Source: Scottish Widows, Returns on 1 November 1997 on a regular saving amount of £50 a month from November 1987 to October 1997 inclusive. Returns to a man aged 24 for the 10 year cash option value of a similar plan to the Premier Savings Plan. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. With profits maturity and surrender values cannot be guaranteed in advance. The information given here is based on Scottish Widows' understanding of current tax law and Inland Revenue practice - these may change in future.

Failure to keep  
track of long-term  
investment plans  
can prove very  
expensive, says  
**Patrick Collinson**

Every month for the past ten years Pradeep Agrawala paid £30 into an investment policy for his daughter, designed to pay out a lump sum on her 17th birthday.

But his daughter Sonya's

birthday celebrations fell flat

when Mr Agrawala saw what

the insurance company,

Aegon Financial Services,

had done with his money.

Mr Agrawala had paid in a total of £3,600 over ten years, but

one month ago unlucky Sonya

got back just £3,583.51, or a loss of £17.49.

Meanwhile, other investments

over the same period

had risen ahead.

The FTSE 100 index jumped from a post-

crash low of below 1,700 points

in early 1988 to more than

5,600 by the beginning of last

month — a gain of more than

300 per cent. If Mr Agrawala

had put the money into

Perpetual's UK Growth unit

trust it would have grown to

£8,625. Even if he had put the

money into a Halifax account

it would have grown to

£4,430.59 and received a free

shares bonus worth more than

£2,000 today.

Mr Agrawala, a planning



Pradeep and Sonya Agrawala are still smiling in spite of the £3,583.51 return from a total investment of £3,600

engineer from Wembley Park in North London, said: "I find it impossible to understand how a big company can continue to run a fund like this, which is purely savings related and does not even return the contribution over a long period of ten years. I was

under the impression that if you put money into regular savings month after month then after ten years you could expect a reasonable return. I find the whole thing totally incomprehensible."

Mr Agrawala was the victim

of life assurance sales

methods common at the time

he signed up to the policy, just

months before the introduction

of the Financial Services Act.

He was contacted in 1988

by a saleswoman for Regency

Life, which was bought by

Aegon in 1991.

He says the saleswoman at the time — "a girlfriend of a friend of a friend" — told him that property was the best investment for his daughter's nest egg. She advised him to put all the money into the Property Series II fund, which was invested in commercial property such as offices and shopping centres, even though Regency offered a range of unit-linked funds with much safer risk profiles.

"She told me that property would be a very safe bet — you have to remember this was the late 1980s — but I didn't know it was all going into commercial property," said Mr Agrawala.

One respected independent financial adviser, Roddy Kohn of Bristol-based Kohn Cougar, says that no one should be advised to put all of a regular savings plan into a single, high-risk area such as commercial property. He said: "Investors with small amounts should consider a unit trust savings plan with the money going into a general managed

or broadly spread international equity fund."

Regency also levied high

charges on Mr Agrawala's £30

a month Universal Savings

Plan, pocketing his first nine

months' contributions in

charges and extracting

another £1 a month as a policy

fee. Furthermore, Regency

proved to be a poor manager

of property investments, with

its performance lagging most

of its competitors.

Mr Agrawala is angry that

Regency and then Aegon

failed to take remedial action

to improve the fund's perfor-

mance or to keep him notified

of how badly it was doing. An

investor can expect to receive

an annual statement on the

progress of any policy. And if

it is unit-linked, the investor

would usually be given the

option of a free switch into

other investment areas.

He said: "Nobody

wrote to me suggesting

that I may want to

switch my investment into

another area. I didn't even

receive any annual reports

from Regency, although I did

when Aegon took over."

Aegon Financial Services

(AFS), which sold policies via a

direct sales force for most of

the 1990s, has now fallen into the

hands of the Life Assurance

Holding Corporation, a vulture

company set up to acquire

failing insurance companies.

The administration for AFS

policies is carried out by Scottish

Equitable, which is also

owned by Aegon, a large Dutch

insurer based in The Hague.

Scott White, an Aegon

spokesman, said that only

around 1,000 people bought

Regency Universal Savings

Plan. "The charges on the

policy were fairly standard for

the time, and you must remember

that the policy also offered

life assurance cover worth 75

per cent of the total premiums.

The key factor appears to be the

type of investment selected.

If he had chosen Regency's balanced

fund, his policy would have been worth £5,200.

The policy was sold before

the Financial Services Act, and

Regency would have simply set

up the contract as instructed.

The saleswoman was working

on a general agency agreement,

not a restricted agency basis,

which means she wasn't

a direct saleswoman for Regency

but could sell the products of

several different companies."

Mr White added that policy-

holders with Scottish Equitable

are sent an annual statement

on the progress of their policy,

including a switch form for

anybody who wants to move

their investments around.

What lessons can be learned

from Mr Agrawala's misfortune?

Mr Agrawala is the first to

say that he did not properly

monitor his investment, impeded

by the lack of information

from Regency. "It goes to show

the pitfalls of not monitoring

the investments, particularly

unit-linked ones with insurance companies."

Mr Kohn added: "It says a lot

about the structure of

charges at the time, but a lot

has been done since then to

ensure investors have more

information to allow them to

make a more informed choice."

## We call IT the Investment Trust PEP

Investing tax free is now really straightforward thanks to The Edinburgh Fund Managers Investment Trust PEP - giving you access to 40 trusts in markets all around the world.

The low cost Investment Trust PEP makes the most of your regular monthly savings or lump sum investment - so you can do more with the money you take out.

- No dealing charges\*
- £30 initial charge, no exit charge
- Annual charge 0.5% - max £40
- 'ISAbility': All our PEPs will convert to the new Individual Savings Accounts (ISA) subject to government rules

### Outstanding performance

VALUE OF £1,000 INVESTED	5 YEARS AGO	15 YEARS AGO

<tbl\_r cells="3" ix="1" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1" used

Caroline Merrell tunes in to the options available to Liam and Noel Gallagher



Britpop shock: wild rockers Liam Gallagher, left, and his brother Noel are reported to have invested around £12 million in pensions products

## What's the pensions story?

Pensions planning, an activity that was once the province of the prudent wage slave, has attracted the attention of Noel and Liam Gallagher, the tearaway brothers of the Britpop band Oasis.

In an uncharacteristically mature move, the brothers are reported to have poured a total of £12 million into pensions, perhaps in an effort to beat the labyrinthine carry forward and carry back rules that allow unused pension allowances of several years to be used up before the end of the tax year.

Liam, at 25, the younger of the two brothers, is said to have chosen to invest a total of £5 million in some species of pension plan. His youth means that he is entitled to invest a maximum of 17.5 per cent of his annual income in a personal pension plan. The Revenue, however, caps the amount of earnings on which pension contributions can be based. With the earnings cap currently set at £84,000, Liam may

invest only £14,700 in the current tax year, although he would also benefit from 40 per cent tax relief (£9,800).

It seems unlikely that the younger Gallagher would have made a pension provision before this point, so his financial adviser may have allocated some more of his millions under the carry back provisions which allow you to exploit any unused allowances from the previous year.

This could be of benefit if, by some extraordinary quirk of the rock business, he had only paid tax at the basic rate of 23 per cent in the previous year. Any carry back payment would attract tax relief at the rate of the year in which the contribution was made.

Noel Gallagher wants to make this extra pension provision, and in the unlikely event that he is classified as self-employed, then he would have had to alert the Revenue via his self-assessment form. Any tax relief on the contribution that

had been carried back would be returned to Gallagher via a refund of tax.

Gallagher could also make some contributions under the carry forward scheme. This allows unused pension allowances from previous years to be used up.

The carry forward provisions relate to up to six years previously, so if at the tender age of 19, Liam Gallagher had contributed less than 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings in a pension, then he can choose to invest any shortfall for the next year. However, he can only use up these past pension contributions if he has made the maximum contribution this year.

Noel Gallagher's allowances are very similar to those of his brother; he, too, is allowed to invest only 17.5 per cent of his annual salary in a personal pension, subject to the overall cap of £84,000. In five years' time, the amount Noel can invest will increase to 20 per

cent. This rises to a total of 40 per cent when the Gallaghers reach the ripe old age of 61.

Because both brothers' earnings exceed the earnings cap, they face the problem of saving enough in a pensions scheme to ensure that they can continue to enjoy the trappings of stardom in their dotage. In order to do this, they could choose to invest in a Funded Unapproved Retirement Benefit Scheme (FURBS), which provides retirement benefits for those affected by the earnings cap. The fact

that one of these schemes is "unapproved" simply means that no tax relief is given on contributions.

Another way they could get around the earnings cap would be to set up a series of companies based around different parts of their businesses, according to Charles Levett-Scriverer, of Towry Law, the financial advisers. He said: "They could then set up many different schemes. Each one would benefit from its own earnings cap."

### Take action before end of tax year

If you are inspired by Liam and Noel's example, you should act before the end of the tax year. There are rumours that the Chancellor may be planning to abolish higher rate relief on pensions. Although some would say this is unlikely given that pensions and pension provision are currently the subject of a review, this did not stop Gordon Brown from withdrawing the dividend tax credit given to pension funds in his first Budget.

You can contribute up to 15 per cent of your salary to a company pension. If you are not paying in the full amount, you can make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). The Inland Revenue permits you to pay from 17.5 per cent to 40 per cent of your earnings into a pension, depending on your age. Only personal pension plan holders can use the carry forward and carry back

provisions, so taking advantage of the unused reliefs of the previous six years. If you have badly neglected your pension in the past, you should consult a financial adviser or actuary specialising in personal pensions.

You should look for a plan that allows you to vary your contributions and to take contribution holidays without penalty. Plans with initial units are to be avoided because these are, simply, a way of paying more commission to middlemen. Chartwell Investment Management (01225 446556) publishes a guide to "clean pensions" (price £12.50). These are flexible plans with low charges. BESt Investment has prepared a guide to best-buy personal pensions that lists worst buys £9.99 (0171-321 0100).

ANNE ASHWORTH



### WE'RE STACKING SAVINGS HIGH AND SELLING 'EM CHEAP

When it comes to tax efficient savings, this is the place to shop. Our policy is discounts, discounts, discounts! Whatever scheme you opt for. We pioneered discount saving. And whilst we have our imitators, nobody beats us for value or efficiency.

We handle all the top brands. So which do you choose?

Much of course, depends on your circumstances.

To help you, we've produced a series of easy-to-follow fact sheets.

The Savings Superstore is a no-frills, execution only service for the cost conscious investor and is a division of Chelsea Financial. For more information call The Savings Superstore, or return the coupon (no stamp required).

The Savings Superstore, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0Y2 Tel: 0171 351 6022  
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PIA). THE PIA DOES NOT REGULATE TESSAS. IF IN DOUBT ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT NEEDS YOU SHOULD OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE.

To The Savings Superstore, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0Y2. Please send me your Discount Saving Fact Pack.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SAVINGS SUPERSTORE**  
THE ONE STOP INVESTMENT SHOP  
A Division of Chelsea Financial Services Plc

### BUILD A BIGGER NEST-EGG WITH THE TEMPLETON 'GLOBAL' PEP

{Tax-free Saving from only £20 per month.}



ALL PERSONAL EQUITY PLANS LOOK THE SAME. UNTIL YOU TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.  
INVEST IN TEMPLETON'S 'GLOBAL' PEP AND YOU COULD FEEL ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

Templeton has a 43-year track record of investing for higher growth. By searching the world for the top investment bargains, we have produced outstanding returns.

For example, if you'd invested in the Templeton 'Global' PEP in 1993, your tax-free holding would have nearly doubled: £1,000 would be worth £1,921; £6,000 - the most you can invest in one tax year - would now be worth £11,526!

The reason for our consistent excellence is that we search the whole world for stocks we believe are worth more than the asking price. If you already have a PEP, you can simply transfer your account to the 'Global' PEP.

Invest in Templeton's 'Global' PEP and you could be on top of the world. To find out more, call 0800 27 27 28. Or write to Templeton Registration Office, FREEPOST EEE721, 17 Nepler Square, Livingston EH54 5SR. Please send me a Priority Application Form and more information on the Templeton 'Global' PEP.

Templeton  
Part of the £140 billion Franklin Templeton Group

To Templeton Registration Office, FREEPOST EEE721, 17 Nepler Square, Livingston EH54 5SR.

Please send me a Priority Application Form and more information on the Templeton 'Global' PEP.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

The  
Income  
PEP  
with  
massive  
growth

152%  
Income  
Growth\*

392%  
Capital Growth\*

### THE MERCURY INCOME PEP

Imagine you had been able to invest in the Mercury Income PEP at the Fund's launch in 1984. The gross income paid to you in 1997 would have been over 150% more than the income you

received in the Fund's first year. Look beneath the surface and your capital would also have grown by a massive 392%.

For more information and a special 2% PEP discount worth up to £120, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

Mercury is committed to offering a FREE switch from all Mercury PEPs into a Mercury ISA in April 1999.

\*Source: Mercury Asset Management. Based on buying to selling Distribution prices (16.9.84-1.2.98) (Illustrative only as PEPs were not introduced until 1997). 5-year equivalent: 25.9% Income Growth; 74.5% Capital Growth. The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. \*Some or all of the annual charge is deducted from capital rather than income. While this has the effect of increasing the yield it may reduce the potential for capital growth. \*\*2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum investments of £1,000 or more in the Mercury 1987/8 PEP. The tax treatment of PEPs will be changed in April 1999. \*\*\*The Mercury Income Fund is managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management plc. \*\*\*The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by IMRO). \*\*\*Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 8AS. <http://www.mercury.com> which is registered by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. \*\*\*For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

CALL NOW 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Asset Management, FREEPOST KE4930, London EC4B 4DO. Please send me details of the Mercury Income Fund. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING USING BLOCK CAPITALS.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames in full \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Ref: TMID10/98

**MERCURY**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT





## THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Tessa boosted as rates rise to 8%

Tessa rates at Norwich and Peterborough Building Society are to rise on Tuesday. The variable interest rate on the Tessa Select (first Tessa) and Tessa Elite II (follow-on Tessa) will be 8 per cent gross, up from 7.85 per cent. Only one Tessa may be held at a time by an investor and interest is credited on the anniversary of the account being opened. The minimum investment is £100, and the maximum is £9,000. Both accounts are subject to loss of interest if the account is closed or transferred. Bradford and Bingley Building Society already offers a rate of 8 per cent, but the minimum balance required on its first Tessa is £500.

The Inland Revenue is asking taxpayers to give their views on self-assessment. Comments on what aspects of the form-filling went well and what aspects need improvement are particularly sought. Write to Clive Hall, Inland Revenue, Business Operations Division, Room 416, South West Wing, Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4RD, to arrive by May 29. Specific comments, or inquiries about personal tax affairs should be discussed

with your local tax office.

■ Ten of the most commonly asked questions on stakeholder pensions have been answered in Legal & General's free factsheet. It reveals the tax advantages in opting for a stakeholder pension, how much it will cost you, and if it is better for you to stay with your employer's pension scheme. Call 0500-509 090 for a copy or visit L&G's Website on [www.lag.com](http://www.lag.com).

■ English Heritage is keeping its joining fees at 1997 prices until April 1 this year. A family of two adults and all children under 21 can enjoy a year's unlimited free access to more than 120 properties and historic sites, such as Stonehenge, for £40. Members also receive free entry to Charles Darwin's home, Down House, Downe, near Bromley, Kent, which is due to open this April. Individual memberships are adults, £23; senior citizens, £14.50; 16 to 20-year-olds, £15; and juniors, £10. Telephone 0171-973 3144 for an application form before March 13, or you can pay by credit card over the telephone by March 31.

LIZANNE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME			
Rates as at February 26, 1998			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00	
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.60	
2 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45	
3,000	ITI London & Ed	5.05	
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.08	
3 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35	
3,000	ITI London & Ed	6.05	
20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.08	
50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.13	
4 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.50	
3,000	ITI London & Ed	5.90	
10,000	Hambro Assured	5.95	
5 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40	
3,000	ITI London & Ed	5.80	
10,000	Hambro Assured	5.85	

Source: Chambre de Bourse 0171-824 4222. Net rates. Income end capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS					
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	Direct Access	InstantT	£1	6.95	Y/y
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Instant Access	£100	7.00	Y/y	
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	£1,000	7.30	Y/y	
Northern Rock 0845 600 6787	Save Dir Inst	£5,000	7.80	Y/y	
	InstantB				
	First Class	£1	6.95	Y/y	
	Postal 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Y/y
	Postal 30 p	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Y/y
	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.90	Y/y
	First Class 120	120 day p	£10,000	7.95	Y/y

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS					
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Y/y
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Y/y
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.90	Y/y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class 120	120 day p	£10,000	7.95	Y/y

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)					
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough BS 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Y/y
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Y/y
Lambeth BS 0800 326832	Postal Tessa	5 year	£1,000	7.95	Y/y
Mansfield BS 01246 202055		5 year	£500	7.90	Y/y

\* Rates shown are gross annual rates. \*\* Rates shown are monthly rates paid in advance.

† Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡ Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§ Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

|| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\* Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

†† Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡ Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§ Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

††| | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

‡‡| | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

§§| | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

||| | | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are gross annual rates paid monthly in advance.

\*\*| | | | | | | | | | | | Rates shown are

## Waiver of premium is essential for life assurance

From Dr Philip R. Thomas

Sir, The anti-consumer nature of Virgin's life assurance policies was highlighted by Gordon Maw's curt dismissal of waiver of premium as one of the bells and whistles added to such policies (Marks & Spencer adds the bells and whistles, February 21).

Waiver of premium is neither a bell nor a whistle but an essential option offered with any worthwhile life assurance policy.

The option allows a person who is too ill to work to have the premiums paid by the life company for the duration of the illness or until the policy expires and does not interfere with their right to convert to another policy without evidence of health where such an option exists.

In terms of rates offered in Hazel Spinks's example, Scottish Widows is cheaper than any of the companies quoted and almost £1 a month cheaper than Virgin.

Therefore, over the 25-year period referred to, Virgin would gain in excess of £250 in extra premiums. This amount would double when the commission, which Scottish Widows pays but Virgin does not, is taken into account.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP R. THOMAS,  
Thomas Financial Planning,  
439 Clock Face Road,  
St Helens,  
Merseyside,  
WA9 4QL.

**O**n Tuesday the Halifax announced a 15 per cent increase in profits to £165 million. Despite the increase, the Halifax shares fell 25p to 950p. The former building society also said it would buy back £1 billion of its shares over the next year, but did not give any price or strategy details. Analysts were disappointed that a more aggressive plan for dealing with its £4 billion of surplus cash had not been put forward.

THE performance of UK pension funds lagged behind

## Conventional wisdom seems crazy

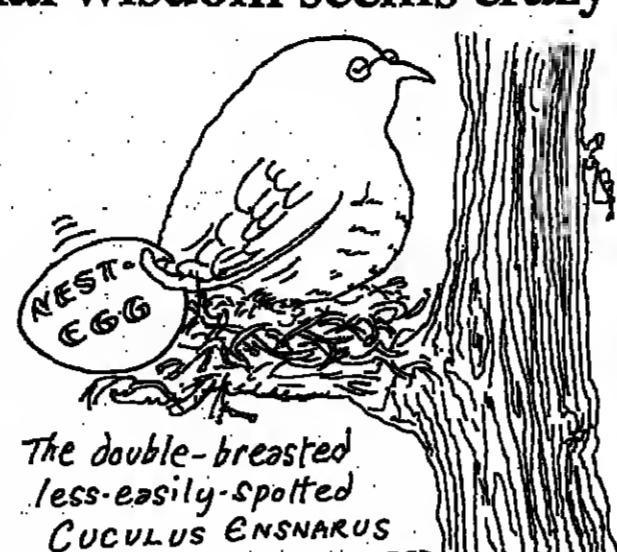
From Mr Peter Kellow

Sir, We are constantly being advised in the columns of Weekend Money that we must invest heavily in personal pensions.

But what about the downside to investing in pensions, as opposed to another form of investment, as follows?

- 1) You do not avoid tax on contributions. You simply delay it, for you will pay tax on the pension income. The accumulation of the fund may have been tax-free in the past, but...
- 2) After the abolition of advance corporation tax, money in a pension pays tax twice (unlike other investments), once on yearly dividend payments and again on cashing in;
- 3) You disinherit your loved ones, as most of the pension fund has to buy an annuity, which also means:

- 4) Because you are locked in to annuities for your pension, you will be stuck with annuities as an investment during your retirement.
- 5) These are producing lower and lower returns already and



in the low-interest world of economic and monetary union could be catastrophic.

5) Your money is locked up in the pension fund should you need to resolve a problem or develop an opportunity.

- 6) Exorbitant pension fund management and set-up fees. Many funds underperform and there is absolutely no

comeback if they do. You cannot withdraw and place your money elsewhere.

Why does the conventional wisdom seem so crazy to me? Yours faithfully,

PETER KELLOW, 34 Avenue Leon Blum, 31500 Toulouse, France.

removed tax relief on private health insurance for the elderly.

Means-testing of free prescriptions for the elderly is under consideration.

With that background, who would be surprised if the "affluent" pensioners lost their state pension to means-testing?

If 10 per cent of payments were avoided in this way, the Treasury would save £3.2 billion, making the total haul from pensioners around £8 billion — equivalent to 4p on the basic rate of tax but without the associated hassle of doing that.

Although Mr Blair has said that the state pension is secure in his hands, I would feel happier were it in mine.

Yours sincerely,

G. MORRIS, 32 Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BU.

## State pension fears are justified

From Mr G.E. Morris

Sir, Your correspondent Mr J Batstone (State pension for those near retirement, Weekend Money Letters, February 21) who expressed his worry that the state pension may be means-tested, has good grounds for concern.

The Chancellor has already raised the tax on private pension funds via advance corporation tax to the tune of £5.2 billion (equivalent to 2.5p on the basic rate of tax) and

removed tax relief on private health insurance for the elderly.

Means-testing of free prescriptions for the elderly is under consideration.

With that background, who would be surprised if the "affluent" pensioners lost their state pension to means-testing?

If 10 per cent of payments were avoided in this way, the Treasury would save £3.2 billion, making the total haul

from pensioners around £8 billion — equivalent to 4p on the basic rate of tax but without the associated hassle of doing that.

Although Mr Blair has said that the state pension is secure in his hands, I would feel happier were it in mine.

Yours sincerely,

G. MORRIS, 32 Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BU.

from pensioners around £8 billion — equivalent to 4p on the basic rate of tax but without the associated hassle of doing that.

Although Mr Blair has said that the state pension is secure in his hands, I would feel happier were it in mine.

Yours sincerely,

G. MORRIS, 32 Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BU.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £150,000 costs.

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as

**forward to sunny days. Look back at 20 years of investment.**

Gartmore Global PEP  
American Fund  
European Selection Fund  
International Growth Fund  
UK Capital Growth Fund  
UK Smaller Companies Fund  
Choice and flexibility at low cost.  
UK's fifth largest unit trust company.

**The Gartmore Global PEP  
with free ISAs transfer**

For a Gartmore Global PEP brochure, return to:  
Investor Services, Gartmore Investment Limited,  
Gartmore House, PO Box 65, 16-18 Monument  
Street, London EC3R 8QZ.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Call for a brochure 0800 3634513  
Email: helpline@gartmore.com web: www.gartmore.com

Source: for performance figures Microplan offers office income statement to 2nd February 1998. \*Performance up to 20 years in the Gartmore Global PEP in the case of UK Capital Growth and International Growth since launch on 1/10/86. In the July 1997 Budget it was announced that unit trusts will no longer be redeemable in a PEP from 6th April 1999. Other tax benefits may change with the phased introduction of a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Gartmore will allow the conversion of Gartmore PEPs into Gartmore ISA. It is not known whether this product is suitable for you and who would personal advice, please contact an independent financial adviser. This is a general advertisement and can affect your legal rights. Please read the prospectus and key information document before investing as they set out the important features of the fund. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Funds are not guaranteed to increase in value and can suffer from regular price falls. Changes in interest rates could affect the value of investments to decrease or increase. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued and Approved by Gartmore Investment Limited. Gartmore Standard Unit Trust is managed by Gartmore Fund Management Limited. Both companies are regulated by FSA and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the National and Corporate Marketing Group, Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8QZ. 0100 3634513. © 1998 Gartmore Investment Limited. All rights reserved.

PEP discounts of up to 2.5% available

**FLAVOUR  
OF THE  
MONTH?  
OR TOAST  
OF THE LAST  
20 YEARS?**

**THE SAVE & PROSPER FINANCIAL SECURITIES FUND**

Before you join the flood of serious investors now pouring into the financial services sector, stop and look at our Financial Securities Fund. Unlike many of its rival funds, it has been riding high in the last twenty years. Right now, its number one out of all the major international growth funds since 1993, with a massive 167% return.

Best of all, it's fully PEPable. For the slow down on the high fund calendar,

LINES OPEN 9AM TO 9PM DAILY WEEKEND  
**0800 829 100**  
SAVE & PROSPER

\*Based on buying at selling price over 5 years to 02.02.98 with gross income reinvested. Source: Microplan. The value of investments and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are not guaranteed; their value will depend on individual circumstances. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. It has been announced that from 6th April 1999 it will not be possible to invest in a PEP. In the meantime, you will not be disadvantaged by investing in a PEP. Save & Prosper is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and FSA. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Please send me details of Save & Prosper's Financial Securities Fund PEP.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ So that we may call and offer further information. 1984/002

Analysts are cool about SocGen's new unit trust, says Jill Insley

# Horlick factor fails to impress (for once)

**S**etting up a new company with Nicola Horlick at its helm must be a marketing man's dream. Ms Horlick has generated enough free publicity over the past year to launch 100 new companies, let alone one.

Cynics may suggest it is the high profile Ms Horlick gained during her acrimonious departure from Morgan Grenfell that has encouraged Société Générale, the international bank, to appoint her a joint managing director of its new fund management arm, SocGen Asset Management. But the company itself emphasises the importance of teamwork, and says that its first product designed for the public will not actually be managed by Ms Horlick.

The SocGen UK Growth unit trust will be managed by Peter Seabrook, previously the UK chief investment officer for Flemings. Mr Seabrook aims to outperform the UK All Share Index by 3 per cent to 4 per cent a year by bringing long-term, institutional-style investment techniques to retail products.

He will concentrate on growth shares in the FTSE 350. This index, which covers the top 350 companies in the UK, rose by 84 per cent last year. Stock buying and selling will be limited, which will reduce dealing costs.

Rather unusually, the fund's portfolio will be limited to about 40 to 45 stocks: most unit trust portfolios carry 100 stocks or more.

If he succeeds in beating the FTSE All Share by 3 per cent, it will position the fund in the top 25 per cent of UK growth funds in the immediate future, and, over a longer term, in the top 10 per cent.

Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere, the Bath independent financial adviser, says a strategy of limited but consistent out-performance of an index is similar to that adopted by Mercury a few years ago. "And it has certainly worked for Mercury," he says.

Mr Seabrook says he will pay particular attention to several areas of the companies. They are: the strength of management; cashflow after capital expenditure and the payment of dividends; the



Strong: Nicola Horlick leads team with a fine pedigree

SocGen UK Growth trust also offers a regular savings plan, of £50 or more a month.

The charge will be an initial fee of 5.25 per cent of the amount invested and an annual fee of 1.5 per cent.

Investors who buy into the trust before March 17 will receive a 2 per cent discount in the form of bonus units.

Independent financial advisers are not particularly impressed with the charges, which are standard for many unit trusts, and verging on the expensive for a fund with no track record. Nor are they familiar with the work of Mr Seabrook, who has only recently worked on the institutional side of fund management.

Nevertheless, they are impressed by the potential of

fered by a fund management team that not only employs Ms Horlick, but John Richards, who was formerly with Mercury as its joint managing director, and John Jones who comes from Prolific as the head of retail.

Arianda Davidson of Holden Mehan, a London independent financial adviser, says: "The team has a good pedigree, and we feel generally favourable about the new fund. We think that it should do well for a couple of years. Its size, and the fact the manager is designing a portfolio from scratch to suit today's investment conditions, makes it easier to manage. He won't be hampered by poor performing shares already in the portfolio."

This is not enough to convince Ms Davidson and other independent financial advisers to recommend the new unit trust. The consensus is that the investment team is fine, but the lack of a track record is a problem.

Ms Davidson says: "We probably won't be giving it a lot of support because there are a lot of established funds out there with good performances, so why go for one without one?"

Douglas Gardener, of Douglas Mehan, an independent financial adviser, Thomson Financial Planning, agrees. He says: "I'm struggling to see anything different about this fund that is not already on offer elsewhere."

March is a key investment period for many investors who want to make the most of their PEP allowances before the end of the tax year. But Mr Gardener questions whether this is the best time to be investing in the UK stock market.

The stock market has been hitting new highs for some time now. I would feel more comfortable about this launch if they offered a drip-feed option, allowing investors to put a lump sum towards a PEP which is then gradually invested in the market over a longer period," says.

Score: ★★★★  
Products graded from ★ (poor) to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

TO FIND OUT ABOUT DISPLAY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

O171 782 7429  
O171 782 7718  
O171 782 7115

## THE TIMES

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES  
CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/send me a copy of THE TIMES

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**OVER 47%  
FUND GROWTH\***  
TIME TO INVEST NOW

Isn't it time your savings started working harder for you? Just compare 47.35% growth in the Marks & Spencer UK 100 Companies Fund since May 1995 with 72.2% in a deposit-based savings account and 80.53% in a Tessa over the same period? Or, to put it another way, a minimum investment of £1,000 in our PEP would be worth £1,473.46, and a maximum investment of £6,000 would be worth £8,840.76\*, with all your income and capital growth tax-free.\* Hard evidence, your choice: time to invest in the Marks & Spencer UK 100 Companies Fund now.

### OUR UK 100 COMPANIES FUND PEP

- Fourth highest out of nearly 800 PEP funds in a recent survey\* • Over 47% Fund growth\*
- Tax-free growth potential\* • No initial charge and no exit charge • You may cash in some or all of your units at any time • Simple administration, with no tax returns to complete

Don't lose your PEP entitlement for this tax year - Invest in our Fund before 3rd April 1998. For more details, including an application form and terms and conditions, call us FREE now.

**0800 36 34 51**

quoting reference code P124

Lines are open 9am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends.

**MARKS & SPENCER**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Money placed in a deposit-based savings account cannot fail in value, unless stock market based investments such as unit trusts where you may not get back the amount invested. You can invest up to £6,000 in each tax year. In a General PEP, your unit trust is liable to corporation tax on any income it receives. Any tax deducted from the income earned by your investment is claimed back from the Inland Revenue on your behalf and no specific claim when selling your PEP is also tax-free. The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. The value of any tax benefit will depend on your individual financial circumstances. It was announced in the July 1997 Budget and the consolidated documents issued in December that PEPs will continue in their current form until 5th April 1999 when the Individual Savings Account will be introduced. A transitional period will apply until 5th October 1999.

+ Performance is calculated for the period from 31st May 1995 to 31st October 1997. The current performance figure for the period 31st May 1995 to 23rd January 1998 is 58.87%. UK 100 Companies Fund performance takes account of all charges and the difference in price at which you buy and sell units with income reinvested without the deduction of tax. The performance of the Fund includes an initial fee of 5%; this fee was reduced to zero on 27th December 1995. Past performance is based on the average performance of a large number of units available for the date listed including Total accounts for which bonus schemes are applicable. The performance of deposit-based savings accounts, unit trusts and other investment products can be less than the value of the investment at the time of purchase.

\*Source Investors Chronicle, 16th January 1998.

Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited, Registered by PIMCO and the Personal Investments Authority, Registered Office: Michael House, Baker Street, London NW1 1DN. Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited is part of the Marks & Spencer Financial Services Marketing Group which uses the business name Marks & Spencer Financial Services.

into real  
investment  
intelligence

£2.95

0295  
414416

money-free  
investment  
the best  
worlds.

لبنان

# Are trackers about to run out of steam?



**With hindsight, the launch of Richard Branson's financial services division three years ago could not have been better timed.**

Virgin Direct entered the PEP market with a fund that tracked the index just as the UK stock market began a period of strong growth.

Virgin has also taken a very aggressive stance against the fund management industry to gain market share. Among its many targets has been Perpetual, which has one of the best records in the industry.

Roger Cornick, Perpetual sales director, likened Virgin's index-tracking PEP to a Skoda at the launch, while claiming that his company's PEPs were more like an Aston Martin. Three years on, Rowan Gormley, Virgin Direct's managing director,

points out that his company's PEP has outperformed all of Perpetual's PEPs since launch. Mr Gormley said: "The Virgin Growth PEP not only boasts cheaper running costs than Perpetual's funds but also outperforms them."

However, in the three years since the launch of Virgin's PEP, other managers have entered the index-tracking market, including Direct Line, Legal & General and M&G, the latter company struggling under a weight of criticism concerning the performance of its managed funds.

BEST Investment, which analyses the performance of PEPs, believes Virgin PEPs are no longer a good buy. Jason Hollands, of BEST Investment, said: "With tracking funds, the main criteria are cost and



whether they track the index. Virgin has a perfectly reasonable PEP, but it no longer has the lowest cost base. It is probably not the right time in any case to buy an index-tracker. The market cannot go on up-tracks. Trackers are last year's story."

CAROLINE MERRELL

If you are unimpressed by the off-the-shelf managed PEPs and want more direct involvement in stock selection, a self-select PEP which allows you to use your £6,000 general PEP allowance could be for you.

In other words, if you believe you can outperform the professional fund managers, you can take control by the self-select option. The manager running the fund buys and sells specific shares, bonds or unit and investment trusts on your instructions.

Self-select PEPs are offered by stockbrokers and the stockbroking arms of the major banks, such as Lloyds and

## PEP TALK

Barclays. These firms act as the PEP manager - setting up the fund and reclaiming any tax due, but, relying on your decisions to buy or sell specific holdings that qualify for PEP investment.

Self-select plans are often more expensive than the

mass-marketed general PEPs, so you need to be confident your gains will exceed the two sets of charges you will face.

Every time you decide to change the composition of your fund, you must pay dealing charges, just as you would if you were buying or selling on the stock market. Both Lloyds and Barclays charge 1.5 per cent of the value of each transaction, subject to minimums of £18.50 and £15 respectively.

On top of dealing charges, which will obviously grow in line with the number of changes you make to your portfolio, there are annual management fees to pay, as well. Lloyds charges 0.65 per

cent of the fund's value, with a minimum of £45 and a maximum of £195, while Barclays is even more expensive at 1 per cent, subject to minimum and maximum fees of £25 and £250.

If you are not putting the full £6,000 annual limit into a PEP and want something less expensive, Share Centre offers a low-cost Bonanza General self-select scheme with dealing fees of 1 per cent and with a minimum of just £2.50 for purchases and £7.50 for sales, provided the shares that are traded are in the FTSE 100 index.

A comprehensive guide to PEPs containing details of more than 1,000 schemes has been published by Chase de Vere Investments and is currently available at a special price of £4.95, with the proceeds going to the NSPCC. Or the normal price is £12.95, which is refunded if you buy a PEP through Chase de Vere Investments. Telephone: 0800-526 092

JOHN GIVENS

## Tap into real investment intelligence

NEW! ON SALE NOW

March issue on sale now £2.95 At all leading newsagents

or call 01795 414936

www.bloomberg.com/uk

WITH-PROFITS BOND

A worry-free investment offering the best of both worlds.

Security and Potential Capital Growth  
If that sounds like your dream come true, then The Equitable With-Profits Bond is a winning combination for your investments.

With £500 you can invest in a managed fund of assets, which smooths the short-term fluctuations in value over the period of your investment.

So, you can strike a balance between keeping your savings safe in a building society, but possibly eroded by inflation, and the potentially lucrative but more risky option of investment in equities.

Of course, the final value of the investment is not guaranteed.

And, as part of your medium to long-term investment plan, The Equitable With-Profits Bond can play an important and profitable part.

You also have the reassurance and peace of mind which comes from dealing with The Equitable Life, the world's oldest mutual life office.

If you would like more information on achieving the best of both worlds with The Equitable With-Profits Bond, call 09900 38 48 58, or return the coupon below for details by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded.  
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products.

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WILTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7ER

The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Wilton Street, AYLESBURY, HP21 7ER

I would welcome information on The Equitable With-Profits Bond

TMBICIC

Name (Mr/Ms/Mrs)

Address

Tel/Officer

Tel/Client

Date of Birth

Postcode

8.8% (9.2% APR)

Whether you're considering investing in residential property for the first time, or you're a seasoned private landlord, we have a challenge for you. Try finding a more attractive combination of low interest rate and flexible lending criteria for a second property.

But feel free to save yourself a lot of time and money. Just call us first.

paragon  
mortgages

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Paragon Mortgages Ltd, Registered in England No. 220094. Registered office: 100 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS. Standard 10-year endowment mortgage with a maximum term of 25 years, interest rate 8.25%, APR 9.25%. The total would make 300 monthly payments of £412.27, the amount payable £104,904. All figures subject to status, valuation and minimum age 21. Written quotations available on request. Our standard insurance will be applied and you will have legal cover which may exceed £25.

The Equitable Life  
You profit from our principles

ISA-able  
2% Discount

GT Global

# GT Income PEP

Spectacular growth  
High income  
Tax free

GT Income Fund boasts a 24-year track record of exceptional growth and a steady, rising income. Look at the facts: £6,000 invested in the GT Income PEP 5 years ago would now be worth more than £16,000 had you re-invested the income - more than double the return from even the highest rate building society.

We're currently offering a 2% discount on GT Income PEP, which we believe makes it one of the most attractive PEP propositions around.

So if you're looking for a high performance PEP for a not-so-high price, call us now for a brochure on GT Income PEP.

Call free on:  
**0500 484 562**

Please return to: GT Global, Freepost, PO Box 1213, Bristol, BS3 3PA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please quote code: T7/3

Investment in PEPs is not suitable for everyone. Please consider your personal circumstances before making an investment decision. GT Income Fund is a unit trust. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of your investment will fluctuate and you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. Please note that the Government intends to replace PEPs with 'ISA's in April 1999. The tax advantages of ISA's may or may not be as favourable as those of PEPs. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Galileo Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by BIFA.

Free  
AUTIF Guide  
to Bond Fund PEPs

## VALUE BOND PEP

**Bond PEPs.**  
The wise choice  
for '98.

With the major equity markets currently trading at high levels, it may be prudent to diversify your PEP portfolio with a corporate bond PEP. In addition, we believe that, there is the potential for further capital gains from Sterling bonds this year, given that bonds tend to perform well in an economic environment of low, stable or declining inflation.

The Guinness Flight Value Bond PEP is one of the best value corporate bond PEPs available. With a 'AA' credit rating\*, no initial charge, no withdrawal charges and an annual management fee of only 0.65% p.a., it's the wise PEP choice for 1998.

Good total performance  
15.9%\* over 1997,  
58.5%\* over 5 years\*\*

Long term yields  
5.75% p.a. redemption,  
6.25% p.a. running\*

High Quality  
"AA" Credit Rated Portfolio\*

Low Charges  
\*No Initial \* No Exit Only 0.65% p.a.

**GUINNESS FLIGHT**  
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

**0145 564 564** Open  
24 hours

Reference 3721

or simply complete the coupon and return to "FREEPOST GUINNESS FLIGHT" (no stamp or further address details needed). Please send me details of the Value Bond PEP plus the free AUTIF Guide to Bond Fund PEPs.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

\*Subject to regulations. \*\*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, offer to other gross income reinvested, 5 year performance to 1.1.98 vs 5.9% on 25.3.98. Performance current gross yields as at 25.3.98. \*Awarded by Fitch IBCA, the leading European credit rating agency. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses reduces your capital. You may not get back the amount you invested. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. Please note that the Government intends to replace PEPs with 'ISA's in April 1999. The tax advantages of ISA's may or may not be as favourable as those of PEPs. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Galileo Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by BIFA.

3721/98

Free  
AUTIF Guide  
to Bond Fund PEPs



## RISING SUMS 52

Graham Searjeant urges caution over the Tokyo market

# WEEKEND MONEY

## DTI targets holiday insurance

**T**ravel insurance premiums could drop dramatically if the Government opened up the market to competition, it was claimed this week. Ministers were urged to ban travel agents from linking compulsory insurance to special holiday discounts for customers.

A ruling on the issue is expected within weeks, but Direct Line, the telephone insurer, has expressed concern that the reforms may not go far enough.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been looking at the links between insurance and package holiday discounts. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is known to dislike the practice and is expected to outlaw it when she makes her ruling this month. Some travel agents charge up to 40 per cent commission on the policies they sell and most regard insurance as a very lucrative part of their business.

Direct Line, which has previously challenged the premiums and commission charged on motor and household policies, says this would not go far enough and has called on the Government to force more competition into the travel insurance market.

Graham Ross, head of Direct Line's household and travel insur-

Marianne Curphey says travel firms make huge profits from insurance

ance division, said travel companies were now looking at offering "free" insurance to customers, but this was nothing more than a "sham".

He said: "Travel insurance is a real cost which the consumer inevitably has to bear at some stage. What actually happens is the cost of the insurance policy is built into the overall cost of the holiday. In 1996, the big four travel agents between them made a profit of £130 million on travel insurance sales — over six times their overall operating profit. The idea that they can now genuinely offer this insurance free of charge is therefore highly questionable."

The DTI is currently mulling over the responses from the travel industry after an investigation into the issue last year. However, this week a report by Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, claimed that the insurance available from travel agencies can be more than 70 per cent higher than through direct insurers.

Among the Best Buys recommended by Which? are Churchill Insurance and Family Care (see below). Notably absent are Lunn Poly (the travel agency owned by Thomson; Thomas Cook, Going Places (owned

by Airtours) and First Choice. Which? found that for a family of four travelling to the US for three weeks, the cheapest deal from Churchill cost £60 and the most expensive, Thomson, Thomas Cook and Lunn Poly, cost £235, £246 and £248 respectively.

Mr Ross said: "Of course we have a vested interest in opening up the travel insurance market but we do believe that many of the policies currently available in travel agencies do not offer good value for money."

**H**e added: "Several common practices discourage customers from exercising their choice. When you are arranging your holiday, the travel agent will often refuse to make the final booking for you unless you have insurance. When you have only just finalised the dates, it would have been impossible to set up a policy with a direct insurer in advance." Travel agents also often bundle insurance in with the overall price of the holiday package.

Mr Ross said: "Although there is evidence to suggest that the market has begun to change over the past

JOE CAVALIERA

the small print of insurance policies.

Which? recommends that when arranging a policy you ensure that you have cover for lost, stolen or damaged possessions up to a value of £1,500; cancellation and curtailment as standard; £1 million worth of medical expenses and £1 million public liability or £2 million, if travelling to the United States.

Churchill, which sells policies only over the telephone, said it aimed to offer good value "but not necessarily to be the cheapest if that meant compromising on the product that we offered".

Kay Gorman, from Churchill, said: "People should shop around and consider buying an annual policy. Many couples and families these days have more than one trip abroad and an annual policy could be more cost-effective."

Lunn Poly said it was disappointed by the recommendations that the link between discounts and insurance should be banned.

Peter Povey, the company's marketing director, said: "This link has been a major stimulus to price competition in the travel industry."

"The vast majority of Lunn Poly customers do not pay for their insurance as we offer it to them free of charge. We have been making them this offer for more than two years."

## INSIDE

59

Anne Ashworth on a cautionary tale for investors

### TAXATION

49

How the Budget could change your will

### PENSIONS

57

What's the pension story?

### INVESTMENT

62

Hit or miss? The new Nicola Horlick fund

## BUSINESS NEWS

26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth



Holiday insurance is vital if you engage in adventurous sports but no one likes having to pay too much

## Lenders push for longer-term fixes

**H**omebuyers, business and the City welcomed the Bank of England on Thursday to leave the cost of borrowing unchanged by keeping interest rates at 7.25 per cent.

The news pleased the City, where share prices had been dropping in anticipation of a rates rise, and it was also good news for homeowners, who otherwise would have had to face the sixth interest rate rise since the general election last May.

Nevertheless, economists believe there will be further rate rises over the next two years. They expect rates to peak at around 7.75 per cent sometime this summer.

Kieren Barr, who is UK economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said the Bank of England, which sets the base rates, is now adopting a "wait and see" policy.

"I am not anticipating rates to come down sharply next year, but expect to see them end 1999 at around 7.25 per cent," he said.

As a result of the uncertain-

ty about the direction of interest rates, growing numbers of homebuyers are now choosing to take out fixed-rate mortgages, and more and more lenders are wooing them with highly attractive deals for what they call long-term fixes.

Mr Barr says 60 per cent of current new mortgages are fixed rates, although most of Britain's homeowners, around 80 per cent, are still firmly wedded to variable rates.

Among the best offers currently available for long-term fixes, according to the money information service Moneyfacts, is Bradford & Bingley's 6.59 per cent mortgage fixed until November 2003.

Newcastle Building Society has a 6.75 per cent loan available until May 2005. Clydesdale Bank also has a

6.99 per cent mortgage fixed for 10 years. Each of these deals carries an arrangement fee, but none allows you to borrow 100 per cent of the property's value.

While there is a mass of two to five-year fixed mortgages, few lenders compete in the five to ten year range. However, one company, Britannia Building Society, is introducing a new 7½-year fixed rate, because research has shown that seven years is the average time people stay in their home before moving.

Britannia is launching its 7½-year mortgage today, at 6.99 per cent for buyers with a deposit (APR 7.3 per cent). For buyers who want to borrow 100 per cent of the value of the property, the rate is set at 7.49 per cent, to July 1, 2005.

The mortgage is available from Verso, the part of Britan-

MARIANNE CURPHEY

The deal has been developed for Britannia by Independent Mortgage Collection (IMC), a subsidiary of Private Label, which was recently demerged from John Charcol mortgage brokers.

However, Patrick Bunton, of London & County Mortgages, said first-time buyers in particular do not feel comfortable with more than a five-year fixed-term mortgage, and most commentators believed that long-term interest rates were now on a downward trend.

Nor is IMC's offer a market-leader. Mr Bunton said: "Principality Building Society currently has a five-year fixed rate at 6.24 per cent which means that over that period the loan is 3½ per cent cheaper than the IMC deal.

"For the IMC deal to be competitive, interest rates in six and seven would have to be very much higher than for the first five years."



Last year, Virgin brought over 90,000 new customers together with a great way to make their savings grow free of tax. That makes the Virgin Growth PEP the most popular PEP in the world!

**direct**

**0345 900 900**

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount that you invested. The tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. The tax status of PEPs will be subject to statutory change after 5 April 1998. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored. \*Source: based on industry returns of the number of new PEP accounts opened in 1997.

## Northern says The Times has a point



Switched on: Brian Tibbles has changed his account six times at Northern Rock

Brian Tibbles, a retired teacher from Roade, Northampton, has already given notice that he wishes to transfer to the new account. He will be entitled to move his money in June.

A Northern Rock customer for six years, he has transferred accounts six times in an attempt to keep pace with the ever-changing range of accounts at the bank.

The Northern Rock has no obsolete

accounts. But, with the addition of Save Direct Instant, it now has 16 different accounts.

Mr Tibbles deplores the Northern Rock's past practice of frequently issuing new accounts while allowing savers in other accounts to languish at lower rates. So he welcomes the bank's attempt to play fair with its customers.

ANNE ASHWORTH

مكتبة المعلم

DAY MARCH 7 1998  
156  
Policy Day Award

IDE

e Ashworth  
cautionary  
for investorsis the  
joyS NEWS  
26-31MONEY  
e AshworthS  
e

## PROFILE

Cunningham:  
the man  
the farmers  
love to  
hate

Page 3

## LIFESTYLE

Sporting  
looks  
in Lycra  
and  
lace

Page 5

## COUNTRY LIFE

Healing  
hands: the  
saviour of  
our wounded  
wildlife

Page 18

## TRAVEL

High  
in the  
hills of  
unvisited  
Jamaica

Page 29

SATURDAY MARCH 7 1998

## THE TIMES WEEKEND

Prince  
who  
built  
a house  
of straw

The Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture is in this may, key players have resigned, the school has closed and now a modernist is at its helm. Gavin Stamp explains why its founder is partly to blame

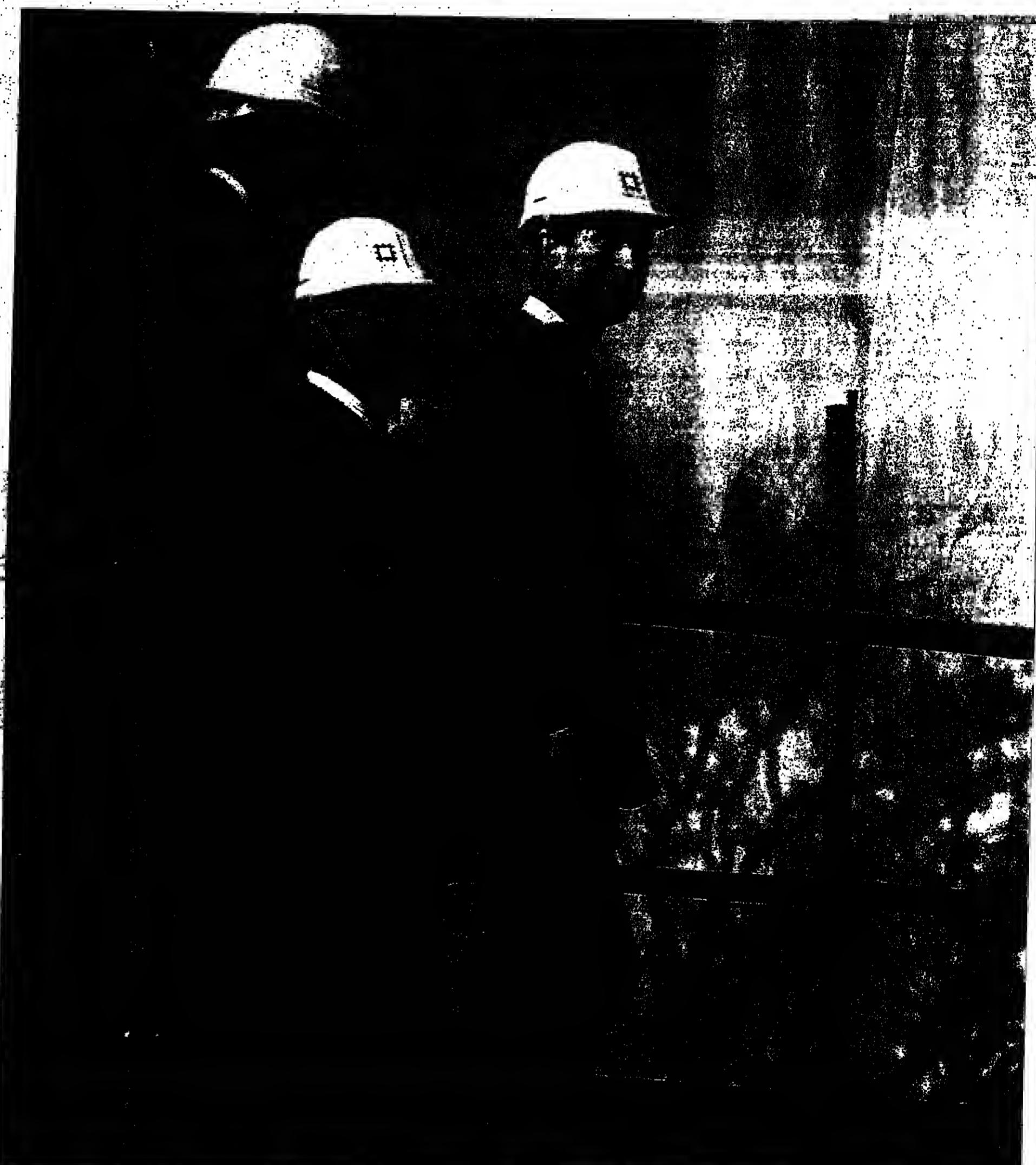
**T**he Prince of Wales's controversial foray into architecture looks as if it is coming to a bloody end. February was a dismal month for the Institute of Architecture, the alternative school and research establishment founded by the Prince in London six years ago.

Not only was it proposing to change its name to the more nebulous Prince of Wales's School of Architecture and the Building Arts, but it was revealed that Richard Hodges, the director, Richard John, a previous director, Hugh Peter, course co-ordinator, and Giles Worsley, the director of a "think-tank" that had never met, had all resigned.

Worsley was also the editor of *Perspectives on Architecture*, the magazine associated with the Institute which, after only three years of life, was also closed by the governing council last month.

But the news that has attracted most publicity is that a "modernist" had been made head of the school. This is Professor Adrian Gale, who has recently retired from running the Plymouth School of Architecture and who, having once worked for Mies van der Rohe — the great modern architect who originally designed the "glass stump" Baron Palumbo tried to inflict on the City of London — can be seen as belonging to the enemy camp in the polarised and puerile world of architectural politics.

It may seem, therefore, as if everything the Prince stood for has been defeated by the ruthless forces of modernism. An alternative explanation, however, might be that Professor Gale was looking for a new posting and his wife, who is a judge, is a friend of Lady Browne-Wilkinson, the lawyer who now chairs the Institute's new council. It looks, in fact, as if the Institute is in danger



Continued on page 2  
The Prince of Wales gives a royal stamp of approval in 1995 to the restoration of the Albert Memorial, the Victorian edifice opposite the Albert Hall in West London

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 11 PROPERTY 12 GARDENING 13 REVIEW 14 16, 17+ COUNTRY LIFE 18, 19 TRAVEL 25-35 GAMES 39, 40

eautiful.



**Joanna Pitman talks to Jack Cunningham, the feisty Agriculture Minister who is no friend to the farmers**

SIMON WALKER



Jack Cunningham, the much-criticised Agriculture Minister. "I grew up living next to a farm and I used to work there in the summer holidays. I walk, I fish and I have farming friends — even beef farmers. I'm a rural man at heart"

## There's not much mud on his wellies

**J**ack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, farmers' foe, son of a Labour trade union leader and product of a rugged proletarian upbringing steeped in the old Labour movement, is in full flow, dredging up his best muddy credentials: "I was brought up in the countryside. I grew up living next to a farm and I used to work on the farm in the summer holidays — for free — because I liked it. I like being out with the harvest ... I walk, I fish and I have farming friends — even beef farmers, you know. I'm a rural man at heart."

The son of the soil's reminiscences sound a little awkward. The trouble is that sincerity in politics is like sincerity in acting — you've got to know how to fake it. And Cunningham just looks and sounds a bit too metropolitan for this kind of manure-on-welly talk. He has only just recovered from a role as shadow spokesman for National Heritage, in a thespian cloak, trying to convince the public of his luvvy credentials and his sincere appreciation of opera, ballet and fine art.

What he really looks like is a career politician. It is 28 years since, at the age of 30, he won the Labour Whitehaven seat (it has been known as Copeland since 1983), a 400-square-mile constituency in west and south Cumbria comprising remote farming communities, part of the Lake District national park and the Sellafield nuclear plant. Cunningham has held the seat ever since.

Today he wears an immaculate white starched shirt initialised "JAC" on the breast pocket (white thread on white for extra exclusivity). He has a couture silk tie and is possibly the last man in Britain to wear a snakeskin belt. The swept-back hair and the slight impression of fake tan gives him a certain air of Ibiza-on-Thames. There is also a sense that he is entirely comfortable with Chris Smith's reported comment that he is one of the two most handsome members of the Cabinet (Tony Blair, of course, being the other).

Cunningham stayed away from the Countryside March last Sunday because he says it was organised for people interested in hunting and hounds. A fear of televised indignities and being jostled by farmers was probably his real reason. And, if so, his instincts were sound. Marchers of all sorts, the knights of the shires, the factory farmers, agricultural workers, even a hardy little band of Welsh falconers, were on the lookout for him.

"He's made a stupid cock-up with the beef," said Alan Forbes, a beef and lamb farmer from west Wales. "He's

kicked farmers in the teeth. My income is down 40 per cent. And associated industries are suffering, too, because farmers aren't able to invest."

"He's an ignorant pig and he won't listen to our point of view," said Clifford Milton, from north Devon. "He's slammed a ban on beef on the bone and now there must be more farmers committing suicide than there are deaths from CJD. I was brought up on beef and full-cream milk. They should leave us alone."

Have we returned to the days when, like the late 1980s, it was deemed proper for the Government to shove its noses into the dietary and other habits of perfect strangers? Today we are told to stop smoking, stop hunting, curtail our enjoyment of beef, cut down on fatty foods, drink less when driving and (if elderly) try to get through the winter without dying of hypothermia. If we were to stay indoors and stick rigorously to a diet of pasteurised muesli and raw celery juice, we should all be fine.

Cunningham is emerging as a keen Cabinet favourite to blame for new Labour's Bossy Tendency. But in person he does not show the slightest sign of concern. "I don't feel as if I'm being blamed."

"Not many people from my constituency would buy T-bone steaks. They couldn't afford them."

over several months. "In banning beef on the bone we were signalling to Europe that we were being tough. We were saying: let us export our beef. It's safe now."

However, despite the safety measures, the ban on British and Northern Irish beef still holds across the European Union: "I expect we will be taking a decision on that next month."

For all the beefy bravado, Cunningham clearly is concerned about the perceived stink hanging over his ministry. Last week he announced that £35 million required to introduce a cattle tracing system and £35 million to implement new controls at abattoirs would now be found by the Treasury rather than extracted from farmers' pockets. This policy U-turn seemed to owe less to any new-found desire to be nice to country folk and rather more to political prudence in the face of 250,000 angry people marching through the capital's streets.

Agriculture has recently been both a high-profile position and an ugly job, but Cunningham, never guilty of hiding his light under a bushel, has embraced it wholeheartedly. He has sent teams of ministry people marching out into the country to talk

to farmers, postmen, teachers and others. And he has subjected himself to regular torture, addressing farmers' conferences and warning them of his intention to support the reduction of farming subsidies.

"I have been sent to take these people on," he said when he took up the job. Today he says he is "enjoying every minute of it".

Bruce force and bloody-mindedness are part of his arsenal, and the farmers' angry jeers evidently slip easily off a tough skin. His masochistic efforts are paying off. Blair has been heard to single him out as one of the top three performing ministers in the Cabinet, and he is considered a possible replacement for Mo Mowlam as Northern Ireland secretary, which would signal a real promotion.

However, Cunningham is 58 and knows his political future is limited. He has had a long and unique career with many ups and downs (he is one of Labour's longest-serving MPs). When Jim Callaghan became Prime Minister in 1976, six years after Cunningham first won his seat, he was appointed a parliamentary undersecretary. When

Labour lost power in 1979, he failed to shine in a series of shadow posts, but spent the 1980s boosting his bank account with a number of lucrative corporate consultancies. In May last year, Blair considered Cunningham's rare ministerial experience invaluable for his new Cabinet.

Cunningham is not a character in the sense of being flamboyant, eccentric or a crank. He has become a parliamentary character by skill, persistence, the careful gathering of cronies and by dint of his long service. But while the perceived personalities of Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell tell us much about the spirit of the Blair age, Cunningham does not quite fit in. He was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and lived in the tied cottage of a grandfather who worked down the mines. His Catholic father was a trade union leader and his Methodist mother was a housewife. The young Cunninghams were well fed but nothing fancy, were taught to keep their nails clean and were introduced into the Church of England.

Cunningham went to Jarrow Grammar School and got a place at Durham University to read chemistry. He grew up in an era when young men Brylcreamed their hair and the excitement of the week was going to the pictures on a Saturday night. He met his wife, Maureen, at a church dance when he was 16 and "got together with her" two years later. They have three children: Catherine, 28, Alexandra, 26, and Jonathan, 24.

Cunningham may have effortlessly acquired a suave, urbane knowingness, and his manner and speech have lost most traces of his origins. But he has never been clubbable, he is not the sort to bother buttering people up. He is more the brusht, semi-house-trained old Labour heavy with a rough tongue. He can also be arrogant. At a recent Commons debate on the beef-on-the-bone ban, he stayed away and fielded his deputy, Jeff Rooker, instead, but he was spotted in the Commons' smoking room. Perhaps he wanted to show contempt for the Tories, but this was not considered a clever move.

Most farmers understand that subsidies are going to be cut, whether it is Cunningham in charge or someone else. But they want the cuts to be made with an understanding of the practicalities of rural life. Subsidy busting done with arrogance in his cabinet's suit is not likely to make Jack Boots' Cunningham the farmers' friend. But then again, I don't suppose he minds that too much.



A country boy: Jack

### IN HIS OWN WORDS

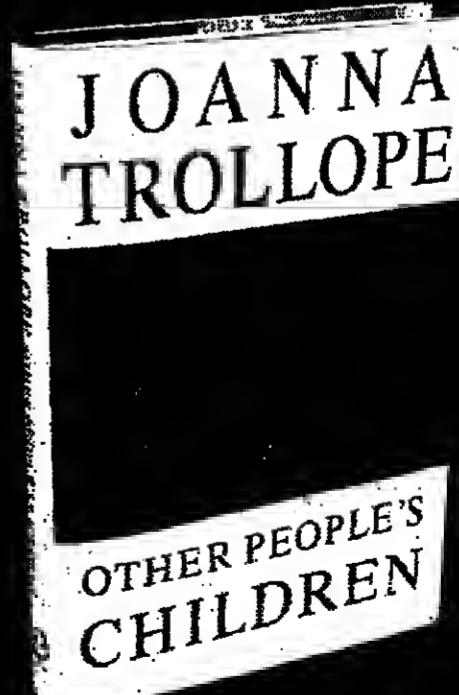
■ "The idea that there is a cheque sitting in Brussels that I can bring back to British farmers cost-free is simply not the case" December 1997

■ "There is over-supply of beef throughout Europe, and a long-term decline in consumption of beef everywhere. The Government is convinced of the need for substantial restructuring of the industry" December 1997

■ "It [the CAP] infuriates farmers, it angers environmentalists and it upsets consumers. You have got to be pretty stupid to go on spending that much money every year, and ending up infuriating everyone and pleasing no one" January 1998

■ "I understand that you [farmers] would like more money. So would many other sectors of the British economy. So would the health service. So would teachers" February 1998

## MOTHERS, LOVERS & OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN



The stunning new novel by  
**JOANNA TROLLOPE**

'Compulsively readable'

Sunday Express

OUT NOW

# Shipshape for model customer

**Michael Cable meets Royal Opera baritone Thomas Allen at a frequent port of call**

Opera lovers who happen to catch sight of baritone Thomas Allen rummaging through a rubbish skip in the street need not be concerned. The Royal Opera star has not fallen on desperate times; he has merely started on a new model boat project.

Although he gets most of his materials for his models from Maritime Models of Greenwich — just a belaying rope's throw from the *Cutty Sark* — many of his non-kit models, such as the miniature 1:250 scale replica of the northeast collier *Vane Tempest* that is his special pride and joy, are made almost entirely from odds and ends. This takes a great deal of imaginative improvisation — which is where the contents of rubbish skips can come in handy.

"If you know what you're looking for, you can find all kinds of useful bits and pieces," he says, adding: "It's not the sort of thing Pavarotti would do and I suppose it could be a bit embarrassing if somebody recognised me. My wife gets very concerned and tells me I must stop doing it."

A single hair from Mrs Allen's head forms the deck rail along one side of the *Vane Tempest*, and one from his step-daughter's head along the other. The hull was fashioned from a piece of scrapwood salvaged from a skip and the ventilators were formed by cutting the ends from pill capsules. The tiny cars in the lifeboats were carved from toothpicks.

Attention to detail is much admired at Maritime Models; shop assistant David Sambrook is an international judge for model-making competitions. "The research that goes into making a model is very much part of the pleasure," says 53-year-old Mr Allen, who buys books and plans from Maritime Models.

"You can learn a lot in the process. The *Vane Tempest*, for example, belonged to the Londonderrys, who owned a lot of the coalfields in Durham, around where I was brought up. She was one of the colliers that plied between the old coal port of Setham, which was my home town, and London. She would come up the Thames as far as Battersea, which is why her funnel and masts had to be designed so that they could be lowered."

Mr Allen traces his interest in ships and boats back to the days when his father, who worked in the credit department of a Sunderland department store, would take him for walks up to a high vantage point in the town to look down on the Wear which, back then in the early Fifties, was still swarming with ships.

"Tugboats, fishing boats, ships on pontoons, ships in dry docks and ships on the stocks waiting to be launched — it was a wonderful sight," he recalls, adding: "My grandfather worked in the shipyards and two other members of my family are marine engineers, so I feel that ships and the sea are very much in the blood."

Model-making came easily to him; he has always been good with his hands. His first ambition was to be an eye surgeon. "I certainly didn't grow up always wanting to be an opera singer," he



David Sambrook of Maritime Models inspects a scaled-down HMS Bluebell made by opera singer Thomas Allen. "Ships and the sea are in my blood," he says

## my favourite shop

says. Even when he started singing in the church and school choirs and it became clear that he was blessed with an exceptional voice, it wasn't seen as an obvious career path. "There was no precedent where I came from," he explains. "Luckily, my physics master was also a professional singer and he gave me a lot of advice and encouragement, and I ended up winning a place at the Royal College of Music."

Renowned especially for his Don Giovanni, a role he has made his own since he first sang it at Glyndebourne 21 years ago, he has gone on to establish himself as one of the world's most sought-after singers, but remains refreshingly untemperamental. "Most singers are very practical, down-to-earth people," he insists. "The idea of the pampered prima donna is the stuff of old Vienna films and the myth of Maria Callas and Caruso."

He doesn't envy the attention-grabbing tenors their monopoly of the spotlight. "I'd rather be a dour, stable baritone than a showy tenor, having to worry about those high notes every night of the week," he grins.

However, he does get irritated by the idea that opera is elitist. "There is no reason why everyone should not be able to enjoy and appreciate it," he says. "It is too expensive, but that's because it is not properly funded."

Although he is booked up all summer with engagements around the world, and is currently rehearsing *Cost fan tutte* for the Royal Opera, which opens on March 17, he would like to move into straight acting. "It's a desire that won't go away," he says. "I'm talking to various people."

"In the meantime, though, I've seen a tugboat here today that I think might be next on my model slipway."

• Maritime Models, 7 Nelson Road, Greenwich, London SE10 9JB (0181-858 5661). Open Mon to Sat 9.30am-4pm.

• Readers are offered two tickets for the price of one to see Thomas Allen in *Cost fan tutte*; for details, see page 21



Based in Greenwich, the store is close to the dry dock where the Cutty Sark is kept

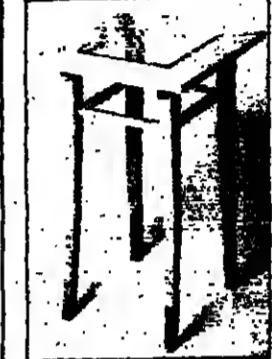
## SHOP WATCH

■ Joseph's latest store opens in King's Street, Manchester, this month. Housed in a Grade II listed building, with a sleek limestone floor, it promises the familiar cool Joseph ambience and the full complement of spring 1998 clothes. For details telephone 0171-590 6200.

■ Planet Organic is a supermarket with the works, from free-range meat to vitamins and organic beer, plus a juice bar for that essential wheatgrass pick-me-up. Call for same-day central London home delivery (0171-221 7171).

■ Muji, the Japanese no-label chain, now has pure cosmetics to match its pure designs. Face Water and Face Milk are £2.95, and lotions, soaps and shampoos smell of mandarin or citrus. Find Muji's biggest store at 187 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-323 2208).

■ Touch Design's mail-order catalogue is full of hand-made homewares.



For a catalogue call 01725 552888 or visit the shop at 51 High Street, B Penny Handley, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

■ Borough Market, home to southeast London's fruit and veg wholesale market, is set to expand into quality food retailing. Neal's Yard Dairy is already there, with a brilliant selection of cheeses from the British Isles, at 6 Park Street, London SE1 (0171-403 9544 or 0171-405 1800 for mail order).

■ UPDATE: Liberty's brilliant, bold floral fabrics have a blonde-wood showroom of their own. Find it in the basement of the Osborne & Little shop, 304 King's Road, SW3 (0171-332 1456)... Follow the fashion cognoscenti in APC, French designer Jean Touitou's new shop at 40 Ledbury Road, W1 (0171-229 4933).

JUDITH WILSON

## GADGETS

THE WORST thing about mobile phones is that they ring. Unless you are a born extrovert, it can be a cringe-making moment when you are in public. Due out at the end of this month is the first of a new range of essential accessories that could put an end to such unfriendly embarrassments. This is a small light powered by a tiny battery that flashes whenever a call is made to a mobile phone in its vicinity.

Available initially as a small key-fob made of clear blue plastic, the phone light will also



appear on the top of pens later in the year. Armed with one of these lights, you can leave the ringer off your mobile, or leave your mobile in your bag, without fear of missing that important call. Of course, you have to keep half an eye on the light instead, but it is easy enough to spot when it does go off.

The next generation of the gadget could be even smarter — small vibrating key-fobs that can be slipped into a pocket.

TIM WAPSHOTT  
• Mobile Phone Key-ring, £9.95, available shortly from The Gadget Shop (01482 860800).



ABOVE: From Mexico, the "Jesus and Mary" 40cm x 52cm brushed-cotton cushions, £28 each, are the latest in designer kitsch. Both designs are striking in red, blue and yellow from World (0171-379 5588)

RIGHT: Radiant in orange velvet, the 70cm x 70cm "Lotus cushion", £70, is a luxuriously soft number to meditate on. From Tamar Zieg (0171-221 0100)



LEFT: The buckwheat filling inside these Indian silk cushions, 25cm x 35cm or 30cm x 40cm, from Doss, is said to aid restful sleep, as each feels like a mini-beanbag for your head. The cushions, £95, come in marine, red, lime and aqua, from Browns Living (0171-491 7833)



LEFT: Filled with lavender, this 30cm x 10cm black, satin headrest, £70, a deluxe travelling accessory from Donna Karen (0171-495 3300), comes in a drawstring bag with aromatherapy candles

## It's time to get stuffed

### CUSHIONS

"They oozze sensuality and are so comfortable to lie on."

Journalist A.A. Gill spends many of his working hours on his fuchsia pink velvet sofa at home, surrounded by four

Far from merely offering protection from cold seats, cushions have become a soft-sell interior design tool. "Buying cushions is like buying a new lipstick," says Caroline Burstein-Collis, a director from the designer clothes shop Browns. "They can create a whole new look without the need for a full face-lift."

In her latest venture, a new home-wares section called Browns Living, she stocks luxury cushions for discerning shoppers who don't mind spending that little bit extra for style.

Self-confessed comfort junkie Donna Karan admits that her penchant for cushions has helped to give her home the functional and nurturing feeling she loves. "Cashmere cushions are my favourite," she says.

Chairman Mao cushions (see below). "If you leave them long enough it's like sitting in a gurning competition," he muses. "The feathers settle and the faces wrinkle into frowns and scowls."

For those who are interested in keeping the right energy flowing through their home, Lama Arto, managing director of the Feng Shui Association, advises going for vibrant cushion colours. "Bland tones of white, cream, dark mahogany and black can create a stagnant atmosphere," he says.

Mark Winstanley, head of home furnishings design at Laura Ashley, is predicting heather and sky blue hues for bedroom cushions this summer, followed by indigo blue next winter.

MARY ANN PERCY  
LEFT: Red and yellow Thai cushion, £59.95, from Neal Street East (0171-240 0135) rolls out into a 125cm long mat



ABOVE: The "Energising" cushion set, £63, consists of three white spun organza cushions, each 15cm x 20cm and filled with an aromatic herb — rosemary, peppermint or white sage. From Donna Karen (see left)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DES JENSON





LEFT: Blue striped knit dress, £105.50, Strenesse, Selfridges, W1, and selected stores nationwide (0171-823 3799). Blue zip-up fleece hood top, £35, Warehouse, see right.

BETWEEN: Blue shiny jacket, £119.99, Diesel. Blue floral embroidered skirt, £39.99, Kookai, W1 (0171-937 4411). Blue leather shoes, £45, Ravel, Oxford Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-436 3126).



**L**ondon Fashion Week may have proved that British designers are the masters of street style, but American design is fit and fighting back. Sportswear, long the favoured apparel of every American, has gone from the baseball stadium to the high street, with mainstream US designers such as Calvin Klein, Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren leading the field with their collections of fashionable fleeces, tracksuit pants and trainers.

American sportswear influences have been with us since the Fifties, when jeans, plimsolls and baseball jackets were the height of cool. This time, though, it is not a single item but a whole look we are appropriating. Entire sportswear ranges are now being integrated into mainstream collections.

According to Archie Fernandez, sales director of Björn Borg, the influence of the sports industry on designer collections has been phenomenal, resulting in his company having "both casualwear and clubwear collections with an 'active' influence".

Although the collections use the traditional colours and styles of the sports field — grey, red, black and white, with trademark stripes and zip-fronted jackets — the new spring look is also soft, feminine and comfortable.

**P**aramount on the spring/summer catwalks is luxury. In New York, Calvin Klein showed tracksuit pants and zip-fronted hooded jackets in pale silk; Bill Blass a white silk crepe tennis dress; Vivienne Tam loose linen drawstring "sweatpants" with heavily beaded spaghetti-strap tops.

Wearing the full strip is not essential. The idea is to mix basic fashion items with sportswear — drawstring pants with sequinned tops; little lace skirts with fine silk sweatshirts; nautical-inspired dresses with spiky heels. The goal is not looking like a team player, but joining in the young and relaxed spirit of the this spring's fashion game.

LISA GRAINGER

ABOVE: Red knit tank-top, £49.99; red knit cardigan, £69.99, Diesel, 43 Earhart Street, WC1 (0171-833 2255). Khaki linen mix drawstring trousers, £89.95, Planet, major department stores (0181-800 8022).

ABOVE LEFT: Suedette charcoal drawstring top, £125, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-530 6200). Khaki shorts, £25, Warehouse, 96 King's Road, SW3 (0171-278 3491). Snakeskin sandals, £145, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903).

LEFT: Grey fleece top, £39.99, Next, branches nationwide (0116-284 9424). Grey crepe skirt with lace trim, £40, French Connection, branches nationwide (0171-399 7200).

Hair and make-up by Sally Knuteltham for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling by Amendip Uppal. Model: Rebecca

### THREE OF A KIND

Watches to suit every style of outdoor clothing — in every kind of weather. LG



Orange leather strap Hydro Compass watch, £32.50, Swatch, department stores nationwide (0171-836 7888)



Black Velcro-fasting Eclipse watch, £50, Fossils, Debenhams, (01908 548600)



Burgundy fabric strap watch, £99.99, G-Shock, 55 Neal Street, WC2 (0171-497 0534); mail order 0800 387146

IF I HAD HALF THE WARMING PROPERTIES OF HÖFEL'S GINGER, I WOULDN'T KEEP GETTING THE COLD SHOULDERS.



**Höfels**

HIGH STRENGTH  
GINGER

Höfels High Strength Ginger can warm both you and your other half, which is fortunate, because at this time of year many people

need warming. Carefully formulated by Seven Seas, Höfels High Strength Ginger is a convenient, one-a-day herbal preparation that's easy to take all year round. So

whenever you need a little warmth, why not try Höfels High Strength Ginger?



Höfels Herbal Supplements

SEVEN SEAS  
Health Care

**Richard Owen meets the maestro of the art of traditional pizza-making**



Pino Arlacchi, the "champion of pizza chefs", disputes the widely-held view that pizza is a Neapolitan dish from the 18th century, and suggests it has ancient Arab origins

## Throw dough the Neapolitan way

**I**s Italian pizza in crisis, uneatenable, going down the pan? Not according to Ciro Moffa, the owner of one of Rome's most successful pizzerias, close to the illuminated fountains of the Piazza del Popolo. Every evening the narrow pavement outside Pizza Re ("King Pizza"), his modern, brightly lit restaurant, is packed with pizza lovers vying for a table, and he even has to provide a hissing gas heater to keep the crowds warm on winter nights.

Only established three years ago, Pizza Re is a firm favourite with the young and fashionable. "The secret lies in the ingredients," Moffa says, waving his arms about exuberantly. "Pizza was invented in Naples, I am from Naples, and our pizzas are 100 per cent Neapolitan."

But the Italian food authorities are sufficiently alarmed by the decline of the pizza — the very essence of Italy, according to Britain's EU presidency logo, which, controversially, uses a pizza as the Italian symbol — to lay down new standards for pizza chefs to follow. There are 20,000 pizzerias in Italy — and that's not counting the bakers who sell pizza by the slice as street food. A million pizzas are consumed every day.

But, as many tourists know to their cost, not everything sold as pizza is worthy of the name. You don't find anything quite as bizarre as the concoctions which pass for pizza in London or New York. "Deep pan" is an unknown concept in the land of the pizza's birth, niftierwise, as are many of the more eclectic toppings. But there are plenty of soggy, greasy or thinly topped Italian examples to give pizza a bad name.

To the delight of native Neapolitans, the National Standards Institute, known by its initials as UNI, has plumped for genuine Neapolitan-style pizza in its efforts to guarantee quality.

"We are going to award certificates the way we do for wine," a UNI official explained. Pizzas which pass the Naples test will be declared worthy of a "DOC" certificate (the initials stand for "Di Origine Controllata"). Pizzaioli (pizza chefs) who hope to qualify may no longer use just any old tomatoes, cheese, or olive oil.

The tomatoes must be plum ones,

in 8mm dice. "Round tomatoes" are allowed only on the simplest of pizzas, the Margherita, named after Queen Margherita (1851-1926), wife of King Umberto of Savoy and topped with tomato, cheese and basil (the "red, white and green" of the Italian flag). The cheese must be mozzarella made from buffalo milk (a tall order, given the declining number of buffalo in Italy), the olive oil must be "extra virgin", and the only salt permitted is sea salt.

Rolling pins are banned: the pastry must be tossed by hand, and the dish must be cooked in a wood-fired oven (*forno a legno*) at a temperature of between 420 and 480 degrees.

At his family pizzeria in the tough working-class neighbourhood of Magliana, I found Pino Arlacchi, the "champion of pizza chefs", distinctly sceptical about standards, DOC certificates and bureaucracy in general. He suspects a "Naples plot" is behind it all.

Arlacchi, a wiry and tireless 31-year-old, teaches at the pizza school in the fashionable Rome suburb of Parioli, where the course lasts three weeks. He also has to cater to the discerning housewives and burly builders and mechanics who crowd into his pizzeria for lunch, and whose culinary standards are high indeed.

**T**hey appreciate his astonishing skill in tossing enormous amounts of pizza dough in the air, twirling the discs of pastry — which have the feel and consistency of chamois leather — over his head and under his knees before slapping them back on to the stainless-steel worktop in a cloud of flour.

Like the Arlacchi family, he agrees with the Standards Institute that "good pizza is getting harder to find in Rome". Those who want to taste it can try Arlacchi's prize-winning specialties, such as his asparagus, salami and mozzarella pizza, or his mashed pumpkin, bacon and mozzarella pizza garnished with artichoke leaves; or Moffa's Capricciosa (ham, artichokes, mushrooms and olives) or Vesuvius (mozzarella, cream and peppers).

You can also try what the Pizza Re menu calls "rustic tart". This does not refer to the young women in tight miniskirts who haunt the approach roads to Naples, but to pizza rustic, a deliciously light confection of eggs and ham resembling quiche.



Signor Arlacchi shows how to throw dough the old-fashioned way

### THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

#### Gin-and-It



**W**hat's yer poison?" As if from a Terence Rattigan comedy of manners, would sound the reply: "Oh, gin-and-it for me, darling." The all-but-forgotten pairing of London gin with Italian sweet vermouth was hugely popular with the ladies — always, it seemed, at 5 o'clock. You would meet up with them at the old Quaglino's, or the Café de Paris between the wars.

Where, when and why so completely "it" fell from grace is a mystery. The G&T remains a hardy perennial; gin-based cocktails are enjoying something of a revival. It is a sorry establishment that does not house a bottle of Martini Rosso and, at a push, a red Maraschino cherry to complete the ensemble, notably without ice. It sits half-way between forgotten and rediscovered, but it lacks the Hollywood "glamour" which seems essential for the full-blooded revival. You are unlikely to overhear Arnold Schwarzenegger ordering one at Planet Hollywood.

From its early Dutch origins, gin, the "mother's ruin", went through various stages of Hogarthian infamy before achieving respectability in polite society with the introduction of unsweetened, "dry" gin in the 1870s. Empire-builders mixed it with Indian "tonic" water, Royal Navy officers mixed it with Angostura bitters (to produce a "pink gin"). Women took it with enthusiasm and a drop of vermouth. This aromatised wine may be the block to future popularity.

The prevailing snobbery is for "pure",

uncomplicated and unsweetened ingredients. Until that trend passes, the cry for "gin-and-it" will be heard only in a dwindling number of golf clubs, and in old films on the telly.

KATE STRONACH

### HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

**T**HERE IS ONE phrase that sends a shiver down my spine when I visit someone's house for the first time and am offered a roast joint: "Would you carve, Henry?" A strategic withdrawal to the car is the first thing that springs to mind, but, sadly, I do possess some manners and have yet to refuse this honour.

Worry over the treasured family carving knife that is usually proffered is the reason I have such cowardly thoughts.

If it is of the bone-handled variety, with a machete-type blade, then I know I'm in trouble — you never know which is the sharper edge.

As interest in serious home cooking grows steadily, we are spending more on knives than we used to — yet we regularly ruin these very expensive objects because we don't know how to sharpen them correctly.

It is time to admit defeat with the steel that you have spent years trying to master and get the ideal device for the best cutting-edge: the Chantry knife sharpener.

This contains two small

steel surfaces in a spring-loaded mechanism which you drag the knife through; after a couple of drags, even the bluntest of knives will have a decent edge.

I have tried countless imitations of this device (it's been around for years), but this is the only one I would recommend. The one I have at home has been in use for more than ten years and still performs.

You will now be thinking about a couple of knives to enhance your collection. I only use four knives at home: a small serrated knife, a Japanese-style chopping knife

with a Granton edge; a long carving knife, also with a Granton, and a 20cm cook's knife.

The Granton edged-knife has deep grooves scored into each side of the blade. This gives an edge of varying degrees of thickness that makes carving and sharpening easier; it is also very good for preventing these slices of fish from sticking to the blade and breaking up.

As always, it is worth investing in a good quality knife. I use Ed Wusthof of Solingen (01782 825835 for stockists).

Chantry knife sharpeners are available in department stores, kitchen shops and kitchen equipment mail-order companies.

Happy carving, and watch those fingers!

● Last week we mistakenly said that olives should be washed in an alcohol solution to remove bitterness. Alcohol should have read alkaline.

● Henry Harris is chef at Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor Restaurant in Knightsbridge, London.

## Drink



### Jane MacQuitty

The 300-year-old Berry Bros has much to celebrate — and much it needs to improve upon

pushing 20 different wines into Asda supermarkets.

Berry's has known for a long time that it had to smarten up its act if it was going to survive, and now it looks as if it will, thanks in part to brought-in management consultants, one of whom, Tony Easter, is now its managing director. He has been quick to hone in on Berry's international customers and the marketing opportunities.

The best news for wine

drinkers is that changes have also taken place in the manner and method that wine is bought. Gone is the family Poliboro, and in its place are Masters of Wine Alun Griffiths, formerly of Harrods and Fortnum & Mason, and David Roberts. Mr Roberts is convinced that the thorough overhaul of Berry's own-label wines and frank discussions with their producers has resulted in improvements that are two-thirds of the way along the quality road they want to follow.

For years, Berry Bros was losing more money than it made on wine. It was propped up by sales of Cutty Sark whisky, now raked ninth Scotch in the world.

However, in the nick of time for its tercentenary year, Berry Bros has been "resuscitated" — and by the unlikely agency of the airports operator BA. It approached Berry's in 1994 with the proposition of opening a No 3 lookalike at Heathrow's Terminal 3. Initially, the workaday wines that Berry's stocked failed to impress the jetset. So Berry's trialled some of its finest and rarest bottles, and was stunned when the likes of a magnum of 1900 Margaux went for £8500.

Today "T3", in Berry's own-found 1990s parlance, stocks 80 first-growth vintages and turns over £3 million annually. "T4", or Berry's second Heathrow shop at Terminal 4, with a small wine bar, is on course to add a further £2 million this year.

A second blessing from Berry's fairy godmother arrived last year in the shape of the strongly based Sloane Avenue wine merchant Fields. Its wholesale trade to posh restaurants like The Ivy and Caprice, plus an important array of 60 wine producers' agencies, breathed an extra gust of life into Berry's.

As yet, Berry's fascia has not replaced Fields in Sloane Avenue, and Fields staff are unchanged. But Berry's, previously well-provided with personal and corporate customers, now has a useful wholesale arm, currently

NEXT WEEK: Irish whiskey

### STAR BUYS

#### 1997 Montagne Auvézère Valley Vineyard Selection

Blessing, Oddbins, £7.99

Blow the budget this week on gloriously verdant spring wine from New Zealand. Montagne is the Kiwi's biggest wine producer and its new top-drawer range of reserve wines, including this racy

reeling from specially selected vineyards in Marlborough's prime Awatere valley, are worth the extra outlay. Savour this rich, concentrated riesling, full of intense lime and floral spice in the garden on a sunny day.

#### 1995 Marquis de Beaufort

Bordeaux, Calvet, The

Victoria Wine Company,

£5.99, or two for £10 until

March 30

Award yourself an early Easter present with this deliciously ripe, perfumed claret, whose first-division 1995 fruit delivers enticingly rich, fleshy

flavours and a long, firm, cedar finish.

Discerning claret drinkers once gave a wide berth to Calvet. But of late I have been impressed by the quality of its wines, particularly their taste and value for money.

#### 1995 Château de la Tour

Chardonnay fizz from the Loire (£3.99).

Other multi-buys that are worth snapping up at Victoria Wine

Champagne (£3.99) and two bottles of its respectable, luscious,

grapey Castilla de Lira from Spain for £2.50 each (down 50%).

And there's a straight £1 off its decent Marquis de la

Chardonnay fizz from the Loire (£3.99).

# The Times Cook

The classic Belgian meal of mussels, frites and truffles with beer is now only a skip, hop and train ride away

**H**ow often do you change the menu? I asked the chef. Six times a year, with the seasons. Six seasons? According to Pierre Wynants, third-generation chef/patron of Comme Chez Soi, the seasons start in February, with black truffles move on to *jets de houblon* (or hop shoots), then *morielle* (the wild mushrooms of May), and *primeurs* (the firsts of summer's fruits and vegetables), then early game (wild duck and partridge); and finally the main game season (wild boar, venison and hare) and white truffles.

Here, in the kitchens of one of the world's finest restaurants, I watch M. Wynants' brigade, including his son and son-in-law, prepare the exquisite dishes for which the restaurant is famous, including *filets de sole, mousseline ou roulée et aux crevettes grises*.

The good news is that Comme Chez Soi, like the rest of the good eating places in Brussels, is now only two hours and 40 minutes from London by Eurostar, less if Ashford is your nearest station.

Each area of Brussels has its *traiteurs*, bakers and pastry shops, and branches of the Delhaize

Bon Vieux Temps and the estaminet L'Image Notre-Dame in the impasse des Cadeaux off the Marché aux Herbes, or Le Fiacre near the Bourse. To satisfy the appetite, you will find some good addresses in this area. Chez Léon, Aux Armes de Bruxelles, Restaurant Vincent and 't Kelderke all serve good food with a distinct flavour of Brussels. Eels in green sauce, *waterzooi* (of fish or chicken), *filet americain* (steak tartare), pigs' trotters, oysters and, of course, mussels, plain or in a variety of sauces, served with chips, are some of the dishes to look for.

From Brussels, with a car, or by train, you can easily reach other parts of the country, and in doing so, you will find some very good tables. I have been visiting Belgium for several years now at the invitation of the Brussels Food From Britain office, which together with Ambiance, a food, wine and travel magazine for both Belgium and The Netherlands, sponsors the Lady Chef Competition.

I have found charming restaurants in the countryside, such as La Barrière in the heart of the Ardennes, where competition-winner Anne Marie Clip cooks seasonal food with a very sure touch.

Her celebratory lunch was based around British produce, and I was most taken with her consummate-rich, full-flavoured, with herbs and shredded vegetables but also including strips of Quorn. Her fillet of South Down lamb was stuffed with its liver, kidneys, feet and sweetbreads and proved very good as well.

**Potato and shrimp salad**

Serves 2  
6 to 8 small to medium-size waxy potatoes, such as Charlotte  
Handful of green beans, topped and tailed  
2 handfuls baby spinach, rinsed and dried  
A few leaves of rocket, mâche, or watercress  
2 peeled tbsp (about 75-100g) peeled and freshly cooked shrimps  
2tbsp fromage frais or yoghurt  
1tsp grain, Dijon or other mustard  
1tsp chopped dill, chives, or chervil  
Seasoning

Scrub and boil the potatoes and, when almost cooked, add the beans. When cooked, drain those vegetables and halve the potatoes.

Place the spinach and rocket on two dinner plates. Arrange the beans and potatoes on top, and heap the shrimps in the centre. Mix the fromage frais, mustard and herbs together with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon over the salad. (Variation: use freshly cooked and shelled mussels in the salad instead of shrimps.)

**Consmomé with Quorn and herb butter**

Serves 2  
75g Quorn

## Frances Bissell

consommé to the boil, drop in the courgettes, tomatoes and quorn, cook for 2-3 minutes, and then ladle into hot soup bowls.

Float a piece of herb butter on top, and serve immediately.

**Fillet of sole in a white wine sauce with shrimp and mushrooms**

(after a recipe by Pierre Wynants)

Serves 2  
1 large Dover sole (about 500g)  
filleted and skinned, but keep the bones

Salt and pepper

1 celery stalk, rinsed and chopped

½ leek, trimmed, sliced, and rinsed

Mix the butter with the herbs, and chill it in a cube. Bring the

1 bay leaf  
200ml dry white wine  
200ml water  
50g unsalted butter, chilled and diced  
8 button mushrooms, brushed and thinly sliced  
2 free-range egg yolks  
Dash of freshly grated nutmeg  
2tbsp peeled, freshly cooked shrimp  
Chervil for garnish

Lightly season the fish fillets, and put to one side. Put the fish bones and skin in a sauceman with the celery, leeks, bay leaf and liquid. Bring to the boil, skim the surface, and then simmer on a gentle heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain the stock into a clean sauceman, and reduce by two thirds. Heat a non-stick frying pan, and add a nut of butter.



## THE PERFECT MUSSELS

Come out of your shell

AS LONG as none of your guests is allergic to shellfish, a steaming bowl of mussels is a treat on a cold night. It is a beautiful sight, the orange contrasting with the pearly inside of the shell and the blue-black outer surface. And it smells good too.

**■ YOU NEED:** for each person, a litre of mussels, about four peeled, split and chopped shallots, a tablespoon of finely chopped parsley and pepper (the mussels carry their own salt).

**■ METHOD:** scrub the mussels under running water, remove any barnacles (as they can release sand into the finished dish), and discard any shells that are open (because they are dead, which can be dangerous). Place in a large lidded pot with the rest of the ingredients. Clamp the lid on, raise the heat, and cook for three to four minutes, shaking well. Transfer to a large heated bowl or serve from the pot. Discard any shells that stay closed (as they were probably dead).

**■ TO SERVE:** start with charcuterie, salad and one or two cheeses, then the mussels with crusty bread, and finish with a fruit compote. Vary the dish by using watercress, rocket, leeks or spinach in place of the parsley; try a pinch of saffron, or use dry cider instead of white wine.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
*The perfect burger*

almonds, and spread this over the pastry base. Beat the cream and eggs and spread this evenly over the sugar. Dot the surface with butter and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C, gas mark 4, for about 30 minutes. Remove from the oven, and transfer the tart to a wire rack. This is best eaten just warm.

**• Comme Chez Soi, 23 Place Rouppe, B1000 Brussels (02 52 122921; fax: 02 32 2 518052); Hôtel-Restaurant de la Barrière, rue de la Barrière, 6890 Transinne en Haute-Lesse (02 32 6 165537; fax: 02 32 6 165532); Food From Britain contact Charlotte Lawson on 0171-233 5111 for addresses of Lady Chef restaurants in Belgium; European: 0345 303030.**

**NEXT WEEK:**  
*The Times Cook in Manhattan*

## CONSUMING INTERESTS: FARM SAUSAGES

ARE GREAT British bangers only found down on the farm? A survey of sausages from specialist producers around the country suggests that most do not measure up to what is even on a par with those that can be found in the better supermarkets, though a very few may be truly excellent.

There were some very amateurish efforts in this selection. My advice for those within reach of a Waitrose store is that none of those reported on here could outdo my previously nominated best buy, the Waitrose Farmhouse Pork Sausage.

## Salad days for active cover girl

**Joe Warwick learns about fashion model Lili Maltese's healthy diet**

### HOME COOKING

**A**s a successful model with the Elite agency, Lili Maltese has graced the pages of fashion magazines such as *Vogue*, *Cosopolitan*, *Elle* and *Marie Claire*. She worked in New York, Paris and Milan for designers such as Versace, Armani and Valentino, before settling in London.

More recently she has been a permanent fixture on the pages of the celebrity glossies *Hello!* and *OK!* by virtue of her relationship and subsequent engagement to Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, owner of Sudeley Castle, with an estimated personal fortune of £50 million. Mr Dent-Brocklehurst himself came to the public attention through his celebrated friendship with Elizabeth Hurley.

The child of Roger and Peggy Sue Maltese, Lili was born in Oregon in 1973 on a return trip from the hippy trail to Afghanistan. Named Liliokoi (meaning passion fruit in Hawaiian) Valentine Maltese, she was raised on the tropical island of Hawaii.

Her father was killed in a car crash when she was only four and her mother raised both her and her brother, Reno, on her own for ten years before she remarried.

Her stepfather is Bill Walker, who designed album covers for the Grateful Dead, the LSD-fuelled band which burst onto the music scene in the late Sixties.

Despite the early tragedy of her father's death, her mother remembers her daughter fondly as a child who was "always wonderful and a lot of fun to be around".

Peggy Sue thinks that her own diet may have helped Lili in later life. "What was funny about Lili was when I was pregnant I was really healthy. After she was born she never



The young Lili loved salads

had any sugar until she was about two. She never had a sweet tooth and I really don't know if that's because she didn't have any sugar from an early age."

The Maltese's diet was unusually healthy, making use of the fresh ingredients readily available on the island.

**M**eal never featured strongly in their meals: "I suppose you could say we had pretty much a vegetarian diet. It was based on whole grains, dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables. We did eat fish and we did eat chicken sometimes but it was very rarely that we had red meat."

Peggy Sue remembers Lili as a gentle child who always loved animals. "We had this great Dane and I remember her crawling all over the dog's back. She was also always interested in horses and riding."

Her mother remembers her as being enthusiastic in the kitchen. "She really loved sal-



Oregon-born Lili Maltese is a familiar face on the pages of glossy magazines

## THE LIVELIEST GINGER SINCE FRED



Duchess of Devonshire's Tomato Sausage, £1.90 for 450g from Chatsworth Farm Shop, Sud Farm, Pilsworth, Derbyshire, DE45 1UF (01246 553322).

Claims: "Made by our butchers in the farm shop. Minimum 65 per cent meat." Verdict: A winner, with a simple recipe of pork, root, tomatoes and seasoning.

Unlinked, evenly formed (by machine) sausages (six to the pound) in a boxed presentation with sprigs of fresh parsley. Cooked briefly in a jolly, bouncy texture inside over-resilient skins. Tasted well. ★★½.

Graig Farm Homemade Organic Plain Pork Sausages, £6.41 per kg, or £7.50 per kg order, from Tylau, Llanrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5TL (01597 851655).

Claims: Only natural ingredients, no colouring, artificial flavouring or preservatives. Meat content 80 per cent.

Verdict: A dozen to the pound in a long, thin shape, chewy-like when cooked. Meaty sausages with some chewy bits, but a clean, simple and direct flavour. ★★½.

Swaddles Green Farm Plain Sausages, £7.00 per kg, from Harle Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, Somerset, TA20 8JN (01460 234387). Delivery free in London or for orders over £50 outside. Claims: Organic farmers and growers. Verdict: Wet flabby horse-knit

sausages, which lost a lot of moisture under the grill and yet still sat in puddles on the plate. Messy to eat. Dilute and unattractive flavour. ★★

Charles Harris Cornish Pork Sausage, £4.63 per kg, from Twardreath Butchers, 41 Church Street, Twardreath, Par, Cornwall PL22 2QZ (01726 812051). Delivery: £10 per order.

Claims: "Champion Sausages". Minimum 70 per cent meat.

Verdict: Bland, rather dry and a bit boring without condiments. ★

The Sausage Maker Aunt Edna's Recipe, £4.76 per kg from Bryan Pickering, 30 The Street, Old Costessey, Norwich NR8 5DB (01603 742002). Delivery: £8.50 per order up to 10kg.

Claims: From a range of over 40 recipes, Aunt Edna's is described as "Lincolnshire-type pork sausage with rubbed sage and black pepper". Seven to the pound. Offers "food delivered to door anywhere in the UK in just 24 hours" and discounts (£ per cent for 5lb, 10 per cent for 10lb).

Verdict: Big and dumpy sausages (eight to the pound) in rough and ready presentation. Marred by excessive use of dried herbs. ★

MORE FOOD & DRINK  
IN  
the times magazine

## PROPERTY

TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 481 1986 (TRADE)  
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)  
FAX: 0171 782 7799 0171 782 7828

## NORTH OF THE THAMES

**SARAH'S** Representations and  
Arrangements for quick sales progs.  
Capital Property. Listed 2 days  
1st & 2nd Sat. Tel: 0171 727 0000.

**SELFRIDGE PV** NW12 Progs.  
bright, spacious, 3 bed,  
kitchens. Guide £171,222 1872

**BLOOMSBURY** Clerkenwell, Bedford  
Square. Spacious, bright 3 bed  
flat. 2nd fl. G/F. Tel: 0171 580 0000.

Helen Watson 0171 580 6275

**HOLBORN** Holborn, WC1 4 bed  
bedroom, 2 reception rooms, 2  
recep. r. Kitchens. Utility + WC. 267 sq.  
ft. Tel: 0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

0171 580 0000. Tel:

Marcus Binney visits a well-preserved 1930s home in Stirlingshire with fine original furniture and a swimming pool. All this and his-and-hers sock dryers too



Caroline and James MacGregor outside Gribloch, tailor-made to the specifications of a Scottish steel magnate

## A Ginger Rogers kind of grandeur

### HOUSE OF THE WEEK

**G**ribloch is one of the most stylish and comfortable 1930s houses ever likely to go on sale. Most original decorative features survive, and it is on offer for £1.2 million with a huge amount of fine original furniture.

The house was built for the Scottish steel magnate John Colville and his Californian wife Helen in 1938-39 and was bought from the Colvilles family by the present owner, James MacGregor, in 1982.

His daughter, Caroline, has written a remarkable history of the house, using original letters for research and showing how the Colvilles took ideas from articles in American magazines such as *House Beautiful*, which are all preserved in the library.

The house commands a magnificent panorama of the Grampians and was built on a virgin site where Mr Colville was taken by his nanny to picnic as a boy.

In photographs, Gribloch can look quite modest, but the first glimpse of the long white front from the road below sets the adrenalin racing.

The house is approached up a steep, curving drive (Mr Colville complained to Rolls-Royce that his car wouldn't take it in third gear) and delivers you on a manicured gravel sweep perched on the crest of a hill and surrounded by the shortest of mossy grass.

Mr Colville gave his architect, the young Basil Spence (later the architect of Coventry Cathedral), firm instructions about combining both 'the view and the sun' in all the main rooms.

Once the front door is opened you look straight out of the house on the other side, through a giant Oriel window, with a sparkling blue swimming pool immediately beyond. When the sun bursts through the clouds the whole staircase, painted in luminous powder blue, is filled with rippling reflections.

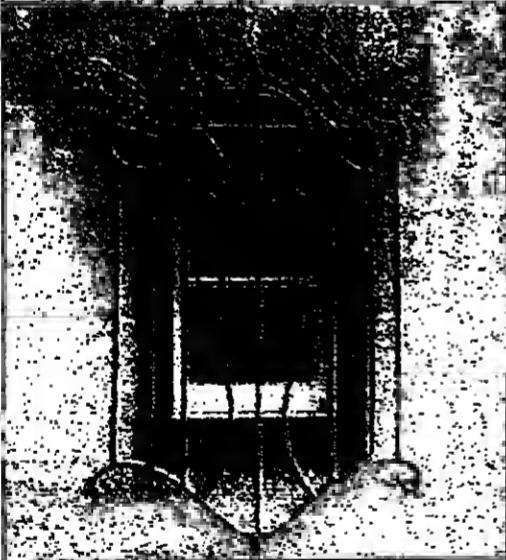
Cascading down across the window is a flying staircase that might have been designed for Ginger Rogers, in which, amazingly, the great Sir



The pool, mosaic, terracotta seal, and artful acknowledgement of the year of origin



Sunlight reflecting off the sparkling blue swimming pool bathes the gracefully arching staircase in warm light



Above: a curved window affords a spectacular view of the mountains in the distance

car garage made out in a half-circle like a Victorian engine shed, complete with inspection pit.

There is a sandstone wall garden and a peach house complete with peaches, nectarines and camellias, though it is in need of extensive restoration. Scented azaleas and huge rhododendrons abound.

Beside the swimming pool is a terracotta seal balancing a revolving copper ball on its nose. This may need attention, but the Tivoli-style wall of water jets spouting across the pool still work at the press of a button.

• Agent: Knight Frank, 0191-225 877.

Nikolaus Pevsner had a hand. Mr Spence rose to his brief in the conception of the house but unfortunately became so busy with clients that he called in Perry Duncan, an American architect, to move the plans forward.

**H**e handed the interior decoration over to John Hill, who on the strength of his work here deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Oliver Messel. He responded perfectly to the Colvilles' desire for elegant understatement, achieving impact by brilliant use of fresh, mainly pale

colours and superb decorative details.

The hall has a wonderfully original shell and rope cornice and bold matching rope mouldings around the doors and archways. His carpet, in

shades of mulberry, blue, white and beige, was rewoven to the original design. In Douglas and still lies on the floor.

The living room has wrap-around windows with the original bullion-fringed pel-

met. The silk satin curtains in shades of oyster, purple and taupe are neatly folded away in the linen-room cupboards. Restored, they would make the room as smart as the penthouse in Claridges.

Mr Colville's desk in Australian walnut remains, designed by Betty Joel with solid wood drawers that click shut on ballbearings — "Like expensive car doors," Caroline MacGregor says.

Beside the fire is a shining chrome coalbox. Or is it stainless steel? "Bright metal," says Mr MacGregor rather diplomatically.

The dining-room doors are veneered in mahogany with guillotine foldings copied from the Colvilles' sideboard. The door handles are cut glass, the top end of a hierarchy that descends through chromium plate to Bakelite in the servants' rooms. Even the original glass panels survive in some places — the glass allowed the wall paint beneath to show through, making the switches all but invisible.

The Colvilles had a 1,400-acre sporting estate and the house naturally had its own gun room and adjoining

cloakroom with cupboards containing hot pipes to dry out clothes.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a handsome deep fireplace entirely faced in lustrous copper, with massive copper fire dogs and copper perimeter rings gathering the curtains over the windows.

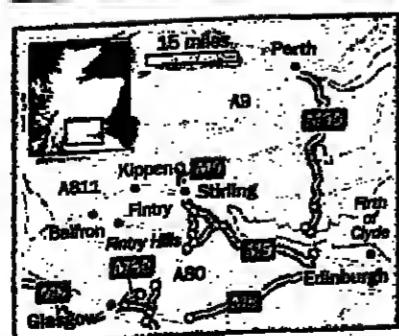
In a letter written in 1937, Mr Spence talks of designing a house "of the 16-bedroom variety". In fact, there are 12 on his plan, including servants' bedrooms and the night nursery. Gribloch comes with three self-contained cottages — a gate lodge and staff houses on either side of a capacious 13-

**GRIBLOCH** lies in the rich country-side of the Finty Hills in Stirlingshire, more or less plumb in the middle of Scotland. The area is not exactly studded with villages, but unspoilt centres such as Kippen, Balfron and Finty itself are popular with buyers. With Stirling only ten miles or so to the east, Edinburgh 45 miles southeast and Glasgow 28 miles south, this is prime commuting territory for prosperous urban Scots and incomers from south of the border. There has also been a renewed influx of families in which the breadwinner is based in the southeast of England, flying down to the office for three or four days a week.

The area offers easy access to Scotland's natural attractions. It is about an hour's drive to the wilds and the skiing country of the Highlands at Glen Coe; the sea lochs of the west coast are also under an hour away. This central position can add a premium of 20 to 30 per cent to properties in comparison to, say, the Highlands or the southern Border country.

Don't expect to find a wealth of 1930s

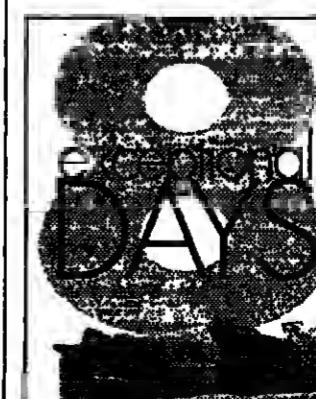
### MARKET COMMENT



at Knight Frank's Edinburgh office observes that the law of diminishing returns sets in as properties in this part of the world get above a certain size, so these rambling houses may represent relatively good value for money. On the other hand, they tend to be damp, draughty and rambling, and often need plenty of restoration and maintenance.

**MOST POPULAR**, he says, are medium-sized country properties of four or five bedrooms, which may be Georgian manor houses (£500,000-plus with land), farmhouses (£250,000 to £400,000). "We suffer from a lack of middle-sized houses with a few acres attached," he explains, "because the estates in Scotland have not been broken up in the way they have been in England." At the lower end of the market, meanwhile, one can pick up village cottages for £100,000 to £150,000, though they are usually small and unlikely to be the rural idyll of the average Cotswold village.

FAITH GLASGOW

From 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March  
How will you resist  
Rochie-Bobois prices?  


Sundays and Bank Holidays included: 10 AM - 7 PM.  
Free parking at our showroom.

427-428 Finsbury Road, Hampstead London NW3 6UL  
Phone: 0171 431 1411 Fax: 0171 431 1611  
e-mail: X309@btconnect.com WWW.Rochie-Bobois.co.uk

**ROCHIE BOBOIS**  
PARIS  
EXPRESSING YOUR INTERIOR WORLD

# Guarantees that aren't built to last

A Buildmark warranty will not automatically protect buyers of new homes against building defects, says Emma Haughton

**W**hen Val and Richard Hockey moved into their new £25,000 home in Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, they immediately encountered problems. "When we tried to put up a blind, the window fell out," Mrs Hockey says. "The stairs were not attached to the house, water came through the kitchen ceiling from the shower, and the chimney caught fire."

As the developer had gone bust, the National House Building Council sent in builders to carry out repairs under its ten-year warranty. "It was very distressing," she says, "but we kept telling ourselves it was just a nuisance and the structure of the house was OK."

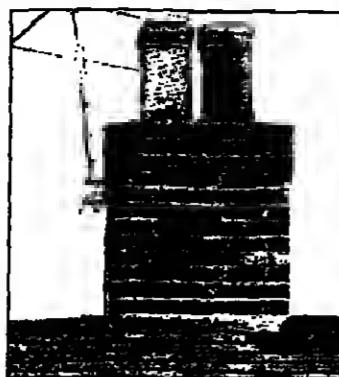
But when the detached garage started cracking, the Hockeys became suspicious: an independent survey found their house walls were free-standing, and the loft and roof were unsound. "The whole structure is balanced like a house of cards with nothing holding it together," says Mrs Hockey, who can't take baths because the floor joists are faulty.

This time the NHBC was less helpful. It paid for the garage, but offered just £1,000 worth of work to cover an estimated £60,000-£100,000 worth of repairs to the house. Mrs Hockey is understandably bitter. "We didn't have a survey done when we bought the house because we felt reassured by the warranty guarantee against faulty workmanship and structural defects, but the NHBC said we hadn't got actual damage and they weren't liable."

The Hockeys are not unusual. A survey of 2,000 homes by HAPM Insurance found widespread failure to meet basic building standards, with problems ranging from poor sound insulation and ventilation to badly designed and constructed windows and doors. According to Professor Malcolm Hollis, surveyor and chair of building surveying at Reading University, the industry wastes 10 per cent of total construction costs on repairing defects.

The result of the Hockeys' case is unwelcome news for buyers. "They expect that if anything goes wrong it will be dealt with quickly," says Professor Hollis. "Unfortunately, this is rarely the case."

Just how rarely has filled some 3,000 files at the Association of New Home Owners, set up two years



The chimney caught fire

approved builder, architect Martin Byrne found extensive water penetration in his detached home in Northern Ireland.

In pursuit of compensation, he undertook NHBC arbitration but, after a counterclaim from the builder and costs, ended up £15,000 out of pocket; the NHBC's latest offer of £20,000 still falls far short of the £65,000 repair bill.

Although 1.7 million households are covered by the NHBC's ten-year Buildmark warranty, many misunderstand the protection it offers. Rather than a guarantee, it is an insurance policy which for two years holds the builder responsible for breaches of required standards, then for the remaining eight years warranties against significant structural damage. "It only deals with the major defects," says Professor Hollis, "but the minor ones are where all the money goes."

There are also growing concern about the effectiveness of NHBC and building-control inspections. While local authorities once examined every home for compliance with government regulations, in 1985 the NHBC was licensed to perform inspections for building control as well as its own warranty. "Builders can now either buy inspections from the council, who ensure everything is done properly, or from private inspectors, who are far more lenient," says Professor Hollis, pointing out that most houses receive far less than the 11 or so inspections necessary to ensure all the elements are checked.

Even those in the trade can be caught out. Despite drawing up approved plans, employing a structural surveyor to oversee much of the work, and using an NHBC-

● The Association of New Home Owners, 22 Abbey Road, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SQ.

## HOW TO AVOID THE PITFALLS

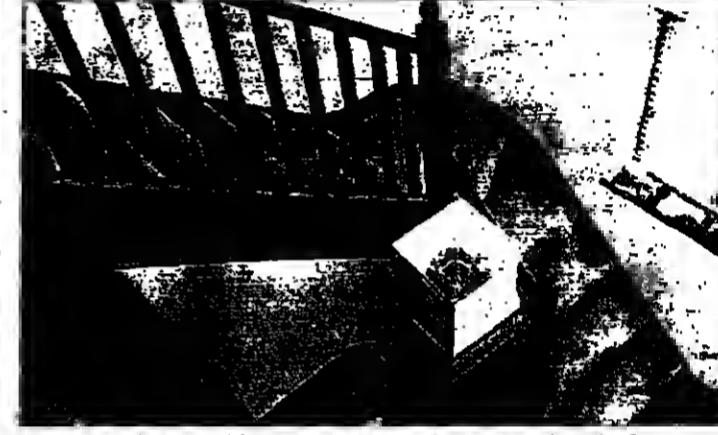
- Read sales literature carefully before paying a deposit. Ask for any additional information in writing.
- Always get a full structural survey, but bear in mind that even the best surveyor cannot examine hidden areas like foundations.
- Beware show home tricks, like using undersized furniture to make rooms look bigger.
- Ask for a full copy of warranty documents and have all exclusions and limitations fully explained to you.
- Make subtle inquiries with neighbours about the site's history.
- Avoid houses built on contaminated land.
- Ask who carried out Building Control Regulation inspections and how many visits were made to the site.



Val Hockey's new home in Buckinghamshire which, independent surveyors found, was "balanced like a house of cards"



The cracked walls of the detached garage caused suspicion



The staircase which was not actually attached to the house

## AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

# TWO MASSAGE AND SKIN CARE VIDEOS – JUST £1.98 EACH



To coincide with our six-part series *Healing*, thirty-two pages covering the A-Z of complementary medicine (part 5 is free with today's *Times*), we offer readers the opportunity to obtain two videos *Essential Massage and Aromatherapy* and *How to Have Healthy Skin*.

*Skin* for just £1.98, normally priced at £12.99. Simply collect three out of four tokens to take advantage of this offer.

The *Essential Massage and Aromatherapy* video explains basic massage techniques, the use of aromatherapy oils and how to blend them. With *How to Have Healthy Skin* you will learn how your skin works and how to deal with difficulties such as acne, allergies, eczema and psoriasis.

In addition, we have ten other videos on aspects of alternative health at savings of up to £1 each, including reflexology, yoga and Shiatsu, and videos which explain the facts of a healthy life. A full list of titles appears right. For inquiries, please call

BVG 01874 611633 x125



## THE TIMES MASSAGE VIDEO ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send it, with three differently numbered tokens, plus your credit card details or a cheque/postal order payable in pounds sterling, to BVG-Airto Ltd, to: The Times Health Offer, Unit 5 Industrial Estate, Brecon, Powys, Wales LD3 8LA. Closing date for receipt of orders is April 30, 1998. The prices below apply to orders from readers in the UK only and include p&p. Readers in the ROI and overseas should call +44 1874 611 633 ext 251 for a quotation for p&p. Allow 28 days for delivery.

QTY	MASSAGE VIDEOS	RRP	You pay
—	A181 Essential Massage & Aromatherapy	£12.99	£1.98
—	A182 Stress Buster	£12.99	£3.99
—	A183 Reflexology	£12.99	£5.99
—	A184 Shiatsu	£12.99	£6.99
—	A185 Yoga	£12.99	£8.99
—	Any 3 Videos for £15.95		
	COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH VIDEOS		
—	A186 Healthy Skin	£12.99	£1.98
—	A187 Healthy Heart	£12.99	£2.99
—	A188 Massage for All	£14.99	£3.99
—	A189 Yoga with Marsh	£12.99	£6.99
—	A190 Well-Oiled, Introduction to Aromatherapy	£12.99	£8.99
—	A191 Healthy Back	£14.99	£8.99
—	A192 Stress: Ten Ways to Beat It	£12.99	£8.99
—	Any 3 Videos for £15.95		

Total value of order £

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day tel \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT Card no: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from the above

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?  Mon  Tue  Wed

Thu  Fri  Saturday  Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by Times Newspapers Ltd, please tick

CHANGING TIMES

## NEW HOMES

NEW  
TOWNSHIP SHOW  
HOME OPENS  
6th March



Artist's impression of Charnwood Village

D.A.  
Debenham  
Thorpe  
Residential

## SPAIN

**FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION**  
20TH, 21ST, 22ND MARCH 1998  
FR 10AM TO 6PM, SA 9AM TO 6PM, SU 10AM TO 4PM  
THE CROWN CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION CENTRE,  
HOMER ROAD, SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM B91 3QN  
Organised by FPE, 20 London Road, London SW10 8LA  
Telephone 0181 944 5782 Visit our website <http://www.fpe.com>

BRITAINS BIGGEST & MOST EXHIBITION FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

Buy without Conveyancing. Please remember, at your own risk, to take legal advice from your conveyancer concerning your documents.

The CED - 07 47 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.ced.com>

For more information about Alpe d'Huez, please contact us at: 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.alpedhuez.com>

Costa del Sol, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.costadelsol.com>

Costa Blanca, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.costablanca.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Andalucia, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.andalucia.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <http://www.provence.com>

Provence, 07 67 62 35 25, or visit our website <a href="http://www

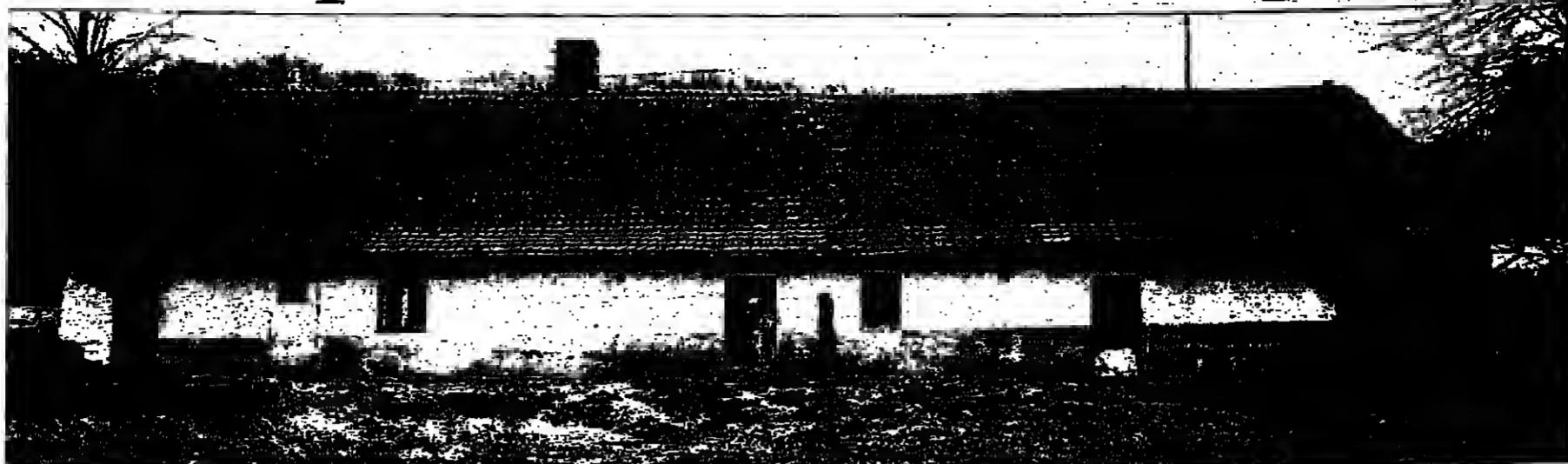
Acquiring a French property can be arduous, but one couple found their efforts ultimately brought rich rewards

Last summer, a dreamy, wine-fuelled conversation about escape, trout fishing and long outdoor suppers led my brother Miles, friend Toby and I to browse through *French Property News*. Since January, Miles and I — Toby having sobered up — are the proud, if still faintly bemused, owners of an uninhabitable farmhouse near Montreuil.

By the time we saw it, Miles had spent a fruitless day in Normandy with an English agent who thought him a time-waster, and I had made appointments, through the London company Northern & Western France Properties, with three agents in Pas de Calais. One didn't show up and another showed me several depressing houses before asking me to translate a property blurb into English and turning down my copy with a sniff. The last agent was Jean-Pierre Lemaire of Activ' Imm, Montreuil sur Mer, who speaks excellent English and, though our budget was relatively small, was keen to find us the right thing.

On only our second visit he showed us a long, low, light *ferronniere* with beamed ceilings, attached barn and a river at the bottom of the garden. In spite of peeling wallpaper (in the ugliest patterns ever sold), "mais water" that consisted of a stand-pipe in the main room, and an outside lavatory (*sous* plumbing) standing magisterially over a pit in a doorless, roofless structure by the road, we knew that this was it. "Home"

## Our peaceful Norman conquest



The farmhouse near Montreuil cost Fr190,000. It has beamed ceilings, an attached barn and a river at the bottom of the garden, but needs Fr300,000 spent on renovation

is just 55 minutes from the Channel Tunnel. I was scribbling on graph paper within hours.

Unfortunately, other English buyers felt the same way and got in first, but they wanted to turn the house into Blenheim Palace-sur-Créquoise and were frightened off by the builder's estimate.

A nerve-racking difference between the French system and the English is that surveyors do not exist in France: you base your decision purchase, or not, on a builder's estimate. We flirted with the idea of using a British surveyor, but decided on a "when in Paris" policy, which we also followed when it came to the legalities of the purchase and did not retain a British solicitor.

French conveyancing is relatively simple so the agent in London explained the paperwork and we went with the flow. Some four months and Fr190,000 (about

'In spite of peeling wallpaper, water from a stand-pipe and an outside lavatory standing over a pit, we knew this was it'

£19,000) later (plus agents' fees, notaire's fees and taxes — not to mention the Fr300,000 for basic renovation) the *à vendre* sign was removed. Our total budget is Fr350,000, so it's lucky I'm good with junk and a staple gun.

The builder, Dominic Rota of Bâtiments des Sept Vallées, Offran, was recommended by Jean-Pierre and, after a festoon of estimates and hours of negotiation over champagne and charcuterie at his

house, is making the house comfortable but not chi-chi. Although our communications rely heavily on mime and the *Oxford Hachette* dictionary, we are confident that all will be well. (We all relaxed when Dominic, thinking glazed interior doors a ludicrous affectation, responded to my request for them with a dismissive "bouffé" and characteristic Gallic shrug. Reckless with champagne, I laughed "bouffé quoi?", which led

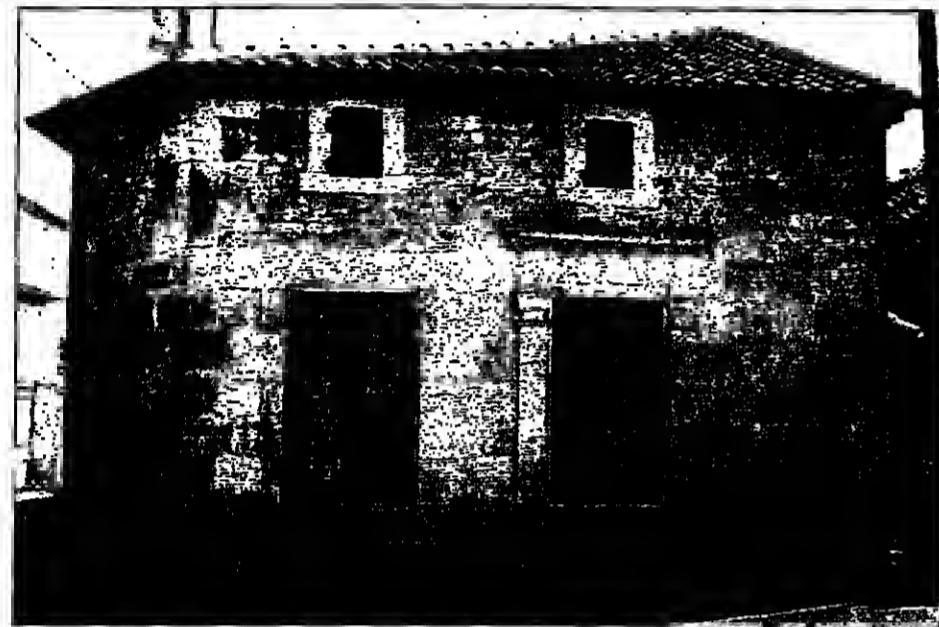
to a feeble joke about mad "bouffé" disease, agreement on the door issue and a general sense that we would manage to understand each other somehow.)

We did read around the subject, but relied mainly upon our instincts — ask me next year if this was wise. According to friends who have second homes in France, we have been lucky: we were introduced to a good agent who in turn organised a builder, bank and insurance company; we found our *paradis* remarkably quickly; and there have been no horrors so far.

We remain enchanted by our house and charmed by the people we meet because of it. When I was first looking for Dominic's house I approached a rubicund, older man wearing a shabby beret and trousers held up by twine. I explained that we were completely lost, whereupon he smiled and replied: "No one is truly lost in this life." Let's not wax too romantic, though: I still can't drive from Montreuil to the house without taking at least one wrong turn.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

• French Property News, 0181-467 1834. Northern & Western France Properties, 0181-891 070. Buying and Restoring Old Property in France by David Everett (Rubert Hale) includes invaluable French/English glossary of building terms. A Complete Guide to Buying a Home in France by Vivienne Mawdesley (Simon and Schuster) gives clear practical information.



This three-bedroom, stone-built cottage in the Charente is on the market at £40,000

## Prime time for Channel vision

**WHERE TO BUY**  
Houses on the other side of the English Channel have never been so cheap, thanks to the strength of the pound against the French franc, now worth almost ten to the pound, having gained a third in value during the past two years.

The French domestic housing market is still in the doldrums, prices having fallen in some areas by 30 to 40 per cent since 1990. Owners are keen to sell and prospective purchasers can often negotiate up to 15 per cent off asking prices. In many rural areas British buyers are the driving force.

Vivien Bridge, of Northern & Western France Properties, says the British market for French property is booming: "Many Britons are crossing the Channel to buy weekend retreats. Others are looking to settle in France, often for retirement. With a strong pound, it makes sense to buy now. The future for sterling is uncertain, with the imminent arrival of the European monetary unit in nine months."

There are bargains to be

had in lower Normandy, a 90-minute drive from the ferry port of Caen. Rock-bottom on the price chart is a two-bedroom village house near Domfront for £4,500. It has a new roof and a septic tank, but needs another £5,000 to make it habitable. The UK agent is Authentic France.

The same agent is asking £21,500 for a renovated two-bedroom stone-built house with a secluded garden, close to Avranches and the beaches of Mont St Michel.

English buyers happy to make the long ferry crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff or Portsmouth to St Malo can find a home at less than half

the price they would pay on the southwest coast of England. You can pick up a habitable stone-built cottage in Brittany for less than £20,000, though most will need updating.

Domus Abroad is asking £46,000 for an attractive six-bedroom, four-bathroom, mill house in good condition, 30 minutes' drive inland from St Malo and the beaches of the Côte d'Armor. It comes with a two-acre garden, a small forest and a meadow, bordered by a stream.

Further west at Huveloeat, a few miles inland from the Côte de Granit Rose (pink granite coast) with its small bays and white sandy beaches, you can buy a two-bedroom character cottage in a one-acre garden for £21,000, through Northern & Western France Properties.

Prices are lower in central Brittany, about two hours' drive from Roscoff or St Malo. Small market towns and villages, such as Ploemel and Josselin, about 40 minutes' drive inland from the south coast, have plenty of old terraced houses for renovation, priced from £15,000.

For a cheap rustic retreat,

you might fancy the Mayenne, about 90 minutes' drive south of St Malo. A habitable three-bedroom country house with thick stone walls, a slate roof, beamed ceilings and an open fireplace can be had for £50,000.

The Haute-Vienne is a little-known region close to the Dordogne but half the price. Stick to the southern border of the Dordogne for warmer, drier climate. The French Property Shop is asking £18,000 for part of a small rural hamlet near Rochechouart. The price includes three old stone houses — two are habitable, one for restoration — plus barns and an acre of land. Allow another £20,000 to restore the third house.

There have been some

dramatic price reductions in the Lot-et-Garonne south of the Dordogne. A restored five-bedroom period house in a village near Puymiral was on the books of the French Property Shop in January 1997 at Fr530,000, then costing £70,500. Now, it is priced at Fr400,000, about £40,000. A similar house in Surrey would cost £250,000.

The Languedoc, next door to Provence and bordered by the Mediterranean, is the poor man's Riviera. The weather is hot and dry and property prices are much cheaper than on the Côte d'Azur. For £10,000 you can buy an 18-square-metre studio in a modern block on the Mediterranean at Cap d'Agde, a lively harbourside resort between Sète and Béziers.

A similar waterfront flat around St Tropez could cost £100,000, according to Nigel Paige of Authentic France, which has a selection of studios, flats and townhouses for sale at Cap d'Agde. One-bedroom flats with a balcony or garden on the seafront cost from £15,000 to £20,000; £35,000 for those with a mooring alongside.

If you sell your French home within two years of purchase you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. Keep any receipts for repairs, as these can be set against your final tax bill. The longer you hold on to your property, the less tax you pay.

There are ways around French succession rules, but expert legal advice is essential.

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

SMART MOVES



### THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBOURG

THE house lived in by post-Marxist political scientist Harold Laski (right) from 1926 until his death in 1950 is for sale for £750,000 through agents Chesterton's. The historic four-storey Georgian town house features six bedrooms, a spacious drawing room, and a blue Heritage plaque on the front.

THE Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg are selling their south France holiday home La Romane for £1.8 million through agents John Taylor.

Five minutes from the village of Biot near Nice and 15 minutes from the coast,

the property includes a main house, a small chapel which has been converted to a guest house, and a three-room staff cottage.

The "Grand Duke" (right), otherwise known as the Duke of Massa or the Prince Bourbon-Parma, was a colonel in the Irish Guards and is married to Princess Josephine Charlotte of Belgium.

TORY MP Bill Cash is letting the Gate House adjoining his 14th-century Shropshire home through agents Blandings.

The two-bedroom, two-bathroom stone tower rises out of a magical garden just far enough away from the main house to ensure privacy.

Mr Cash and wife Biddy have recently renovated their home.

RACHEL KELLY



THE SCOTTISH estate (above) belonging to the late Roger brothers, famed for their art and furniture collection, has been sold for £2 million by agents Langley Taylor. Dundon-Nell, a 33,500-acre estate near Inverness, has a laird's house and landscaped gardens, along with deer forest and trout fishing. Bunny and Alan Rogers died last year.

SMART MOVES

THE Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg are selling their south France holiday home La Romane for £1.8 million through agents John Taylor.

Five minutes from the village of Biot near Nice and 15 minutes from the coast,

the property includes a main house, a small chapel which has been converted to a guest house, and a three-room staff cottage.

The "Grand Duke" (right), otherwise known as the Duke of Massa or the Prince Bourbon-Parma, was a colonel in the Irish Guards and is married to Princess Josephine Charlotte of Belgium.

TORY MP Bill Cash is letting the Gate House adjoining his 14th-century Shropshire home through agents Blandings.

The two-bedroom, two-bathroom stone tower rises out of a magical garden just far enough away from the main house to ensure privacy.

Mr Cash and wife Biddy have recently renovated their home.

RACHEL KELLY



Set in two-and-a-half acres of gardens, this two-bedroom house near the River Dordogne is on sale at about £48,600

of the purchase price on signing the preliminary contract —  *compromis de vente*.

All conveyancing costs, including notary fees and taxes, amounting to 10-12 per cent of the purchase price, plus £300 for the estate agent (the cheaper the property the higher the percentage), must be paid by the purchaser.

If you sell your French home within two years of purchase you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. Keep any receipts for repairs, as these can be set against your final tax bill. The longer you hold on to your property, the less tax you pay.

There are ways around French succession rules, but expert legal advice is essential.

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821372; Northern & Western France Properties (see above); The French Property Shop, 01892 852449; English solicitors specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Willmott of Thirlings & Long (01255 484449) and Stephen Smith of Preys Solicitors (01473 232121).

Authentic France, 01258 821

A contemporary garden would be an ideal tribute to the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, Barbara Abbs writes

# Memorial fit for a modern princess



Angular bench used by Mr West

The idea of recreating a historic garden as an appropriate setting for Kensington Palace is a good one. It should be done. Whether it should be a memorial to the always-modern Diana, Princess of Wales, is another question.

Among those who feel that the late Princess would be more fittingly commemorated by something unmistakably contemporary are several members of the Society of Garden Designers. It was about the time the society was holding a conference, entitled "Order and Adventure [in garden design]", that a letter appeared in *The Times* suggesting that the memorial garden be designed at Kensington Palace by an art historian, albeit one who is also a serious and talented gardener.

Delegates to the conference had heard a lecture by Dr Louisa Jones on the state of garden design in France and one on the work of the Belgian designer Jacques Wirtz and his company by his son, Peter. The public parks of Kathryn Gustafson, the landscape architect, the exciting private garden in France of the late Nicole de Vesian and the pictures of Wirtz designs all over Europe created moods of exhilaration and depression in the audience.

They drooled over sculptural hedges following the contours of the landscape, over architectural cascades and light-hearted fountains that could not have been designed in any other period except today. Even motorway reservations attracted plaudits.

Then they came down to earth. Patrons in Britain, public or private, only rarely ask for modern design. Our designers could do it and would do it, but complained that so often they were asked to do Gertrude Jekyll pastiches or historical reconstructions.

The British have a love affair with lead that seems to intensify, but just as there are two extremes, modern gardens in Britain, one designed by an American, the post-modernist architect Charles Jencks, and the other, Little Sparta, is closed to the public because the local planning department has no idea of what a modern garden is.

One designer who passionately believes in the modern garden is Jill Billington. She designed exciting small gardens in London, but longs to be asked to mastermind broad acres. She describes her style as "contemporary minimalism. Sensitive to the site and to the owners and a lack of gimmicks produces gardens that are easy to live with."

One commission in Hampstead, was for a courtyard in front of



In his Teddington garden, designer Cleve West has put a garden shed almost centre stage. The roof, covered in grass, is used to create an arch that is ecological, dramatic and fun

a glass-walled studio containing one or two pieces of dramatic modern furniture. The white-tiled floors inside are covered in white slabs outside and spiky grasses; and bold evergreens are planted in the surrounding pebbles. Ms Billington is philosophical. "People come to gardening from many different viewpoints and I realise that only a minority will ever be interested in the sort of garden I'd like to design," she says.

There are several reasons why this minority is smaller here than in Europe or the United States. Many gardeners live in older houses and feel that a modern

design would not look right. Paul Cooper, who is based in Wales but does much of his design work in London, says that although many London houses are elegant and traditional at the front, they can be extremely ugly, "all plumbing and London brick", at the back. There is

no reason to stick to the safety of tradition.

More importantly, institutions in the UK are timid when it comes to commissioning landscape architects and designers. The public is not given the opportunity to become comfortable with really modern landscape design.

In France, Kathryn Gustafson

was commissioned by the small town of Terrasson-la-Villedieu to design a public park while Jacques Wirtz and his team are involved in the re-design of the Tuilleries Garden in Paris. The Garden Festival at Châlons-sur-Marne is full of the most way-out gardens and people flock to see them.

**M**r Cooper could compete with the most avant-garde European designer. His constructivist garden, using glass, stainless steel and plastic, and containing orange and black flowers, caused a sensation at the Chelsea Flower Show a few years ago. Unfortunately, it did not appear to advantage against the French Formal Garden, the Old Abbey Garden and the reconstruction of a Victorian greenhouse that were popular that year. Chelsea is really about horticulture while Mr Cooper's work can be better described as exterior design.

One of his recent commissions has been to design a garden for a modern house at Golders Green.

Here, a tiny damp garden, surrounded by huge, gloomy conifers, is covered in a lighting system walls

covered in white foam panels.

**Q** Last year I had an outbreak of big bud on my blackcurrant bushes, and removed all the infected buds. How can I prevent a recurrence? — I. Howard, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

**A** Big bud is a problem caused by tiny moths infesting the buds, causing them to become swollen and

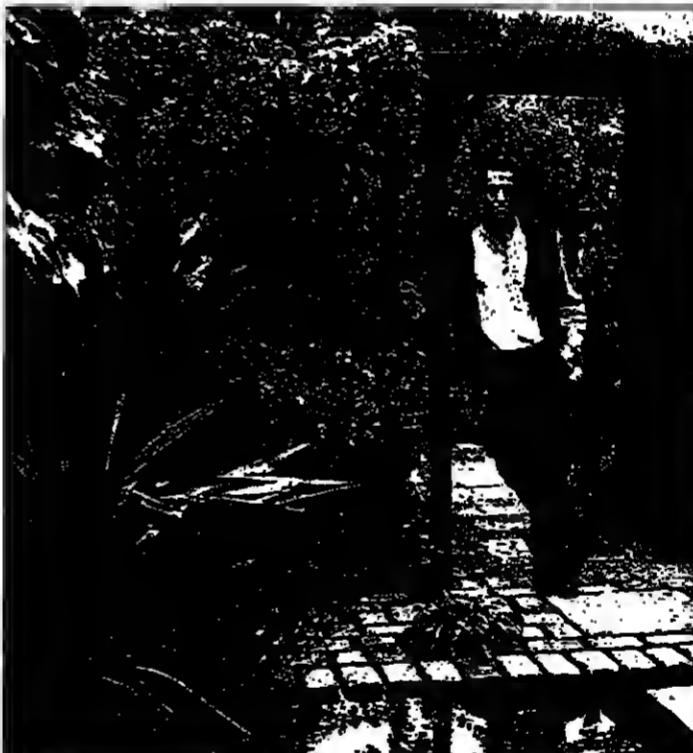
rounded during the winter.

Eventually, they dry on the plant and fail to grow. The moths also spread blackcurrant virus. You are correct to remove all infected buds when they can be clearly identified in late winter, but this will not eradicate the problem. If you feel this year it is under control, fine — otherwise, pull out the

bushes after fruiting and replace them next winter.

**Q** I have had the blue climber *Solanum crispum* 'Glasnevin' for the past nine years on a south-facing garage wall, in an 18in deep border abutting a concrete patio. For the first few years, it flowered well, but now it flowers little, and grows little. The roots do not appear to be very deep in the soil. How do I rejuvenate it, or do I replace it? — S. Conry, Coventry.

**A** Thin borders under



Mr West mixes simple, geometric plans and unusual materials

transparent screens and projected images. The garden changes its character from hour to hour. Seats are suspended 12 feet off the ground so that the owners can sit in sunshine.

This year, Mr Cooper's garden at the Chelsea Flower Show will be based on paintings: not the nostalgic watercolours of Helen Allingham or even the Impressionists, but the much bolder in-your-face paintings of the Fauves and Kandinsky.

Cleve West is a designer who combines wit and style with a feeling for the rhythms of nature. In his own garden, a recreation of his award-winning project at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show a few years ago, the garden shed almost takes centre stage. The roof, covered with flower-studded grass, extends over the path and is supported by timber uprights creating an arch and focal point that is ecological, dramatic and fun.

Both Ms Billington's and Mr West's designs are attractive to owners who like gardening. You can potter about with plants and arrange, as they do, bold groups of

dry and hungry. However good the preparation of the soil at the time of planting, plants and especially vigorous climbers eventually run out of steam. Roots come to the surface in search of what scraps of nutrition and moisture might come their way.

I would thin out the top

growth by 80 per cent in March, leaving just a framework of the main stems and some younger shoots coming from them. Then give it a good dressing of bonemeal, and a generous mulch over its root area of rich, but properly rotted, compost or

manure. If the only mulch you can offer is something ornamental, rather than nutritious, such as cocoa shells, then you need to give a richer dressing of artificial fertiliser underneath. Either way, I would give the plant a fortnightly can of liquid feed this year. That way it will not lack for water, and you will be sure of getting it to take up some goodness.

**Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Panton St, London E1 8QN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.**

## Dig that Chinese patch

Jane Owen finds order is key in a Feng Shui garden

When is a garden not a garden? John Brookes' "outside room" of the Sixties has been translated into a dramatic architectural picture or sculpture, where plants are almost an afterthought.

At one end of the garden spectrum stand Jekyll, Hobhouse, Lloyd and all the other great planters and women. At the other is a growing band of architects and designers from David Hicks to Sir Roy Strong, Maggie Keswick and Charles Jencks, who use monocultural plantings to bring drama and elegance to a landscape rather than flowers and leaf pattern to create the gentle prettiness associated with traditional English gardens.

John Wyer, who designed the dramatic central London courtyard pictured below, is one of the new breed of garden makers. Although he trained as a landscape architect at Manchester, he is heavily influenced by Chinese gardens. Such is his enthusiasm for China that he once cycled all the way there. He visited a variety of Chinese gardens, studied Feng Shui, and now recreates such gardens from London to Taiwan.

But that only partly explains this garden. As Mr Wyer points out, it takes a client with daring and imagination to put into effect such a bold scheme.

The client is a European businessman, determined to remain anonymous for the purpose of this exercise, with an interest in Zen, Feng Shui and Eastern mysticism. He is also a perfectionist, which is why this garden is relatively high maintenance — a team prunes and preens it for several hours every week — despite the simplicity of the planting.

The first rule of Feng Shui is that there should be no clutter. Good design reflects that idea anyway, but this client likes his garden kept so that not a leaf is out of place." Mr Wyer says.

His brief took three years of altered plans and fine tuning before it was eventually built last June. "The client wanted a garden that could be looked at rather than used. But the plot is dark and dank, it faces north and it is overlooked on all sides by tall buildings. So we used Feng Shui to overcome these problems. It is a matter of balancing the yin and the yang and controlling the 'chi' or energy flow through the garden."

**I**n Feng Shui it is believed that wealth and health is ensured by having water flowing towards the house, so a water feature was installed. However, getting the water surface to be seen to be moving (crucial in fulfilling the Feng Shui idea) needed a far more powerful pump than anyone had bargained for.

Portuguese laurel lollipops have been clipped into simple, round shapes, a theme echoed in the curve of the laurel leaves and the rounded river-washed marble chippings on the garden floor, which give the area a light, almost airy feel.

"There are five elements in Feng Shui — water, fire, soil, metal and wood. So the red wall is fire and it helps to counteract the negative flow of energy caused by this garden facing north. The beds are edged with stainless steel and the wood comes from the trees."

The box hedging at the end of the garden has been squared off and clipped into a proper hedge shape.

"There is a synergy between many of the principles of Feng Shui and garden design. In the end, a garden has to blend calmness and energy. Like the energy of the wind rushing across water with the calm someone feels when they sit in a garden."

Although, should anybody attempt to sit in the garden, I think they would be tidied away in case they interrupted the chi flowing through it.

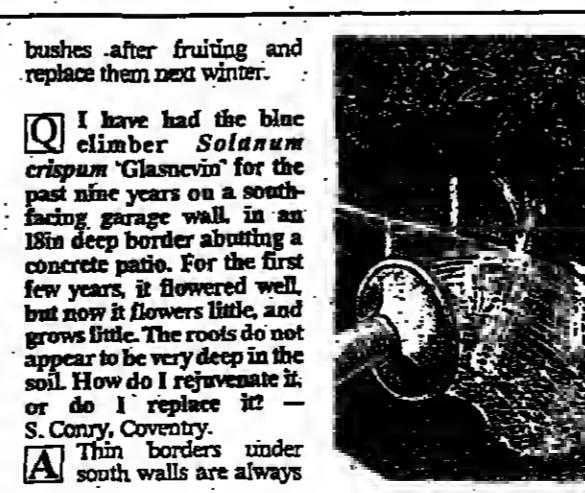


Garden took three years to create

### STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

**Q** Last year I had an outbreak of big bud on my blackcurrant bushes, and removed all the infected buds. How can I prevent a recurrence? — I. Howard, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

**A** Big bud is a problem caused by tiny moths infesting the buds, causing them to become swollen and



# Great for work, rest and plays

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOHN MORTIMER

**H**is wife is shooting and hunting in Devon. John Mortimer is alone at the home he has inhabited all his life, surrounded by the 50 acres, three cultivated, where *Voyage Round My Father* was set and filmed. He has a flat in London but never uses it preferring, after a day in town, to glide back to this secluded end of the Chilterns, near Henley-on-Thames. "When my father built this house, in the Thirties, his idea was to have a small house and a big garden. The house is designed to look out over the garden in all directions. I couldn't live anywhere else. The whole thing is very important to my life," he says.

When his father made the garden from a field, he had several gardeners. Now there is one, Peter Hayes, who is also the Mortimers' driver.

Running west from the house there was once a long herbaceous border. This has been replaced by a low-maintenance shrubbery with a path down the centre. Behind this are two deep pits filled with old beech trees and holly scrub.

As a boy, Mr Mortimer turned one of these into an amphitheatre where he would put on his own plays. "Because I was an only child I did all the parts. I did Hamlet, King Lear and Othello — and I used to duel with myself and murder myself as well."

This area is called Gravelly Wood, so I suppose these were gravel pits at one time. It's a good place for children. I've got grandchildren older than my youngest," says Mr Mortimer who married twice, both times to a woman called Penelope.

At the end of the shrubbery walk is a semi-circular white bench, which has seen better days, backed by a semi-circle of yew which has been cut right back after years of neglect. Fifty metres or so further on is a wilderness seething with the first spears of thousands of daffodils and planted with specimen trees, including acers, azaleas, a strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), magnolias, a contorted hazel, and some flowering cherries. "When it's in flower this one looks like a crouching Japanese wrestler," he says of one old cherry.

Mr Mortimer's father planted most of the trees here but was helped by his son (an infrequent event) to plant a large evergreen, *Eucryphia glutinosa*. The main garden at the front of the house,



John Mortimer's parents

with views across rolling beechwoods, is dominated by a tree of heaven at the centre of the lawn and, to one side, a magnificent blue cedar planted for George V's silver jubilee.

"And here is the pool that I put in," Mr Mortimer says. "My mother would have thought it was horrendously vulgar."

Beyond the pool area a giant green and yellow mobile, called "Conversation Piece", nods in the wind. It was commissioned by Mrs Mortimer from John Piper's grandson, Henry, and made in the colours of the house (which has a green roof and yellow woodwork) for her husband's last birthday.

All tapestry hedges, woven in with ivy, separate this area from the kitchen garden, which is fertilised with manure from the stables. There are strawberries, sprouts, leeks, spinach, red lettuce, soft fruit, a pear and knobby old cordon apples planted in the 1930s which produce a huge mound of cooking apples.

"Everything seemed to grow more when I was a child," Mr Mortimer says. "And I don't seem to be able to grow all the things that my father grew, such as asparagus, nectarines and peaches."

The garden is not as grand as it was. I spend lots of money at garden centres and I always listen to *Gardeners' Question Time*, but if you did all the things they said you'd never get anything else done."

Pots of cymbidium orchids, at



John Mortimer with his orchids. "I'm quite good with flowers," says the author whose role in the garden is mostly supervisory

one end of a heated greenhouse in the kitchen garden will move into Mr Mortimer's study as they flower, or be put outside during the height of summer. Two are in flower, one white, one green, beside a double pink amaryllis and some white hyacinths in his study.

"I'm quite good with flowers," he says, confessing that his role in the garden is mostly supervisory. "I don't like this upper-class white flower garden idea if you look at the great painters, like Matisse, they use the colours of dahlias clashing with each other."

Flowers in the round conservatory, on the garden side of the house, are a testament to this — mauve and pink fuchsias (incredibly, in full flower in January) clash with a red camellia and pinky-red Christmas cactus. The white geraniums look positively subdued.

Beyond the garden proper are the areas of beechwood bought by Mr Mortimer to preserve the trees, a field of rare wild orchids, "strange butterflies and wonderful



Voyage Round My Father was filmed at the Mortimers' house

snails", and bluebells. "I found out about the orchids from a poacher who appears a lot in *Paradise Postponed*," he says.

Apart from using the garden for parties and for children visitors,

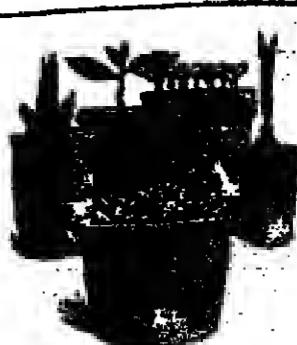
PETER TREWAVAS  
■ Prune the butterfly bush *Buddleia davidii* hard back to a framework of older wood at 2ft-4ft. Shoots will already be starting to grow, both low down in the bush on older wood, and at the ends of the branches. Cut back to the size you require, even if it leaves the plant leafless.

■ Complete the planting of new raspberry canes, putting them in shallowly 16in apart, with off between the rows. Cut them down to 9in. A generous mulch of old compost will suppress weeds and reduce the need for vigorous hoeing between the rows, which can induce sucker formation.

■ Established raspberries will benefit from feeding now to ensure strong canes for next year. Sulphate of ammonia is a cheap source of artificial nitrogen, and half an ounce to the square yard will give the plants a lift. Sulphate of potash, applied at the same rate, is also beneficial for fruit production on this year's canes.

■ In more sheltered and well-drained soils, begin outdoor sowings *in situ* of broad beans, early carrots, parsnips, summer spinach and ruby chard.

■ Pots of narcissi or hyacinths can be stored in a light, cool place to die down, or be planted in the garden.



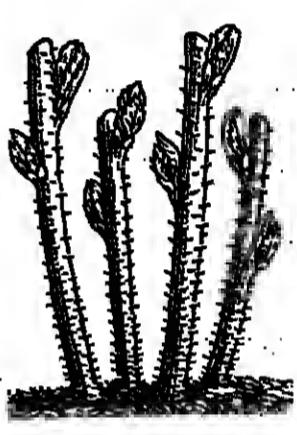
THAMES TELEVISION  
■ Prune the butterfly bush *Buddleia davidii* hard back to a framework of older wood at 2ft-4ft. Shoots will already be starting to grow, both low down in the bush on older wood, and at the ends of the branches. Cut back to the size you require, even if it leaves the plant leafless.

■ Complete the planting of new raspberry canes, putting them in shallowly 16in apart, with off between the rows. Cut them down to 9in. A generous mulch of old compost will suppress weeds and reduce the need for vigorous hoeing between the rows, which can induce sucker formation.

■ Established raspberries will benefit from feeding now to ensure strong canes for next year. Sulphate of ammonia is a cheap source of artificial nitrogen, and half an ounce to the square yard will give the plants a lift. Sulphate of potash, applied at the same rate, is also beneficial for fruit production on this year's canes.

■ In more sheltered and well-drained soils, begin outdoor sowings *in situ* of broad beans, early carrots, parsnips, summer spinach and ruby chard.

■ Pots of narcissi or hyacinths can be stored in a light, cool place to die down, or be planted in the garden.



JANE OWEN

• The paperback edition of *Felix in the Underworld* by John Mortimer was published last month by Penguin, £6.99.

## HOMES &amp; GARDENS

**Agriframes****FRUIT CAGES**

FREE BROCHURE &amp; NET SAMPLES

Agriframes Ltd.,  
Brochure 4928 Charlwood Rd, East Grinstead,  
Sussex RH19 2HP Tel: 01342 310000 (24 hours)**GAIN SAFE ACCESS TO EXTRA SPACE****LOFT LADDERS**Fully fitted by our contractors  
from £129

£129

PACKAGE DEALS

• 3 Section Ladder + Light

• 20 year Floorboarding

ONLY £28.75

SAVE £58.75

BPS LADDERS LTD

CALL FREE ON 0800 592551

14

**QUALITY TIMBER BUILDINGS POUNDS**

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY &amp; INSTALLATION SERVICE



SHEDS, WORKSHOPS, SUMMERHOUSES, GAZEBOS, PLAYHOUSES, GARAGES, GREENHOUSES, ETC, ETC.

Buy direct from the factory • No payment before delivery • Quality built on 40 years experience • First because they last

RING FOR FREE CATALOGUE 01299 266337

POUNDS LTD SUPPLIERS MEMBER BENTLEY GROUPS CHILDS

BAKERS DOZEN  
"Fruit For Fifteen"  
13 Glorious Rose Bush Varieties. More Bushes & many premium varieties available in bush or upright forms.  
Delivered by lorries, all for

£16 to:

Trent Valley, 64 Derby Road, Derby DE7 3SD

TEL: 01773 515757

FAX: 01773 515162

WARWICK BUILDINGS

STUDIOS SUMMERHOUSES WORKROOMS GARAGES STABLING

(Please tick box below)

SHOW SITE: SOUTHAM ROAD, LONG ETON, Nr RUGBY, WARWICKSHIRE CV33 8QJ

TEL: 01926 515757

FAX: 01926 515162

**LADDER STABILISER**

- Safe, strong support makes ladders free standing.
- Prevents ladders slipping or toppling sideways.
- Works on uneven ground.
- Ready for use in seconds.
- High quality, light weight.
- Fits any Alu or wood ladder.

Send for FREE colour brochure

ANKALAD

20 New Road Gravesend Kent DA1 1QA

TEL: 01474 537237

8am-8pm: 7 days



Ideal for hedge trimming

**BLOOMS of Bressingham**

ONE OF THE BEST FREE-FLOWERING PERENNIALS MONEY CAN BUY

**Our Stunning Rudbeckia Collection**

3 plants for just £5.95

Rudbeckia, with its daisy-like flowers, is classed as one of the ten best perennials for a first-rate, free flowering display all summer long. Easy to grow in sun and any reasonable soil, Rudbeckia will brighten your garden with its sparkling blooms, which comprise of a central cone and rayed petals.

Our Collection comprises one each of the following varieties: *fulgida*, *Goldsturm* - a compact and hardy variety with masses of deep yellow blooms with contrasting black centres, flowers in late summer and autumn and reaches a height of 60-70cm; *occidentalis Green Wizard* - a new variety which offers moss green flowers with a stunning black heart which flowers during August and September and reaches 1-1.2m in height; and *purpurea White Lustre* - a variation with great appeal due to its attractive ivory-coloured petals which surround a mahogany centre, reaches 90cm in height.

Our Rudbeckia Collection is available for just £5.95, including delivery. The plants will be despatched in 9cm pots, and will be ready to plant straight out into your garden guided by our easy-to-follow horticultural instructions provided. Despatch will be throughout April and all orders will be acknowledged off subject to availability.

**GUARANTEE**  
We underline our commitment to service, quality and variety by offering a two-month guarantee on all our plants.  
• Price includes delivery.  
• You can return within 14 days for a full refund or replacement if not completely satisfied.

**BLOOMS of Bressingham**  
Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ Collection(s) of 3 Rudbeckia @ £5.95 each, inc. del.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose crossed cheque/postal order (address on back) for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Blooms of Bressingham or debit my Mastercard/Maestro card by £ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders to: RUDBECKIA OFFER, BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM, Mail Order, Adm 0162 8631254, Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2SH. Terms of trade apply. Mail Order customers only. Please do not write to receive future offers.

Reg. Address DPA Direct Ltd, 25 Hollinshead Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 2DZ, Reg. No. 254420.

**THE GREAT HUSQVARNA CASH-BACK CUTS THE COST OF GARDENING.**

Buy a Husqvarna lawn tractor, pedestrian mower or brush cutter and you could win back the purchase price in the all new Great Husqvarna Cash Back-up

Back-up to the value of £1000!

TO FIND OUT MORE FREEPHONE 0800 010520

FREE! 'Cleaner Machines for a Greener Future' shows you garden equipment from the world-famous Husqvarna range.

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ Details about The Great Husqvarna Cash-Back \_\_\_\_\_ Information about Husqvarna Lawn Tractors \_\_\_\_\_ FREE Husqvarna Range Video \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Husqvarna Forest and Garden UK, PREPOST (GR 655), Sheephouse, Gloucestershire GL10 1ER.

Husqvarna

**FROM ONLY £17.95**

ALL MODELS ARE APPROX. 0.4M (16") DIAMETER ALL HEIGHTS ARE ABOVE GROUND. IN ADDITION WE PROVIDE AN EXTRA 0.3M (1ft) BELOW GROUND FOR STABILITY.

MADE IN ENGLAND

ASHDOWN OBELISK CLEARANCE OFFER

New Ashdown Obelisks are a wonderfully inexpensive way to bring height and shape to colourful flower beds and borders.

Positioned singly or in groups, they will transform your garden with many interesting design options. Use them as attractive growing supports for your favourite climbers such as roses or clematis. Add fragrance with jasmine or produce a colourful evergreen display of variegated ivy. Unlike other obelisks which will require expensive and time consuming painting, Ashdown obelisks come complete with moulded fittings and finials and are supplied fully finished with rigid steel tube and a black nylon weatherproof coating that will last for years.

FREE P &amp; P WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE

Offer applies to UK mainland only.

Your money back if not delighted - return unused within 14 days.

Normal despatch within 5 days but please allow 28 days for delivery.

The offer is subject to the Data Protection Act 1998, Representation of Goods Act 1978 and the Sale of Goods Act 1973.

ORDER NOW - OFFER ENDS MARCH 31ST

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ (by) of 1.8m (5' 11") OBELISKS at £17.95 + £4.95 p/p.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ (by) of 2.0m (6' 7") OBELISKS at £20.95 + £4.95 p/p.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ (by) of 2.3m (7' 6") OBELISKS at £23.95 + £4.95 p/p.

Send payment to Ashdown Special Offers, Charlwood Rd, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HG. Or charge M-Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Switch \_\_\_\_\_ Total £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

A new crop of volunteers is transforming Britain's gardens. Sue Corbett meets them

**V**oluntary gardening these days means more than country house-party guests working off the effects of city indulgence.

"Town people are always good at slashing and burning," says David Edwards, who gardens at Olivers, near Colchester, Essex. "They love it because they cannot light a fire in their London gardens. But the danger is that some of your friends are not much more competent than 12-year-olds, and that can take some managing."

But the new breed of voluntary garden helper does inspire confidence. At the University of Bristol Botanical Garden, superintendent Nicholas Wray works closely with a team of volunteers — some of them retired, but many much younger, seeking work experience. "They not only have an interest in gardening but good plant knowledge, so we can place them in areas where they advise visitors on the culture of the plants," he says. "It's not sufficient to have many pairs of willing hands. They have to be self-motivated and prepared to do the work. This garden covers five-and-a-half acres and some of the borders are bigger than most people's back gardens. So, on any one afternoon, all a volunteer may do is weed one border. But if they come for a period of time they get a good range of jobs — and maybe some plum ones."

For some volunteers, this sort of work is just a beginning. If volunteers have been

## Many hands, light work

unemployed for some time, Mr Wray can reduce their fees at the garden's night school. "We've had three volunteers in the past three years who've not only successfully completed our night school but gone on to gain places at college and are now in full-time employment in gardens," Mr Wray says.

Wendy Brewin, who co-ordinates the voluntary help at the Lost Gardens of Heligan at Pentewan in Cornwall, holds out hope of similar career prospects. Three of the volunteers who have been helping to restore Heligan's fine old gardens since day one are now on the paid staff.

"They've become Heliganites, part and parcel of the garden," she says. "And as they have been seen on television, working here, they even have to sign autographs — for visitors."

Those who can be on-site for a week or more are given as much variety as possible, and may even find themselves collecting and laying manure

for the famous pineapples in Heligan's hot manure beds.

Heligan taps every available source of volunteers — from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which has been clearing a Georgian ride of fallen trees and branches, to children on work experience from local schools and university students on middle-year placements.

Another garden that rivals Heligan for this sort of initiative is John-Michael Kennaway's 1,200-acre estate at Escot, Ottery St Mary, where the star volunteer, known to everyone as "Mrs P" and describing

herself as a "very senior citizen", takes charge of weeding Mr Kennaway's four herbaceous borders, despite having a large garden of her own. "She volunteered out of the blue," says the delighted Mr Kennaway, "and comes once a week from Easter."

"I love it," says Mrs P. "Part of the attraction is the beauty of the place, and the fact that

whole families come here. And it is interesting when other keen gardeners come round as we learn from each other. There is a nucleus of people who have a wonderful lack of materialism." Perhaps it is something in the Devon air.

If people don't volunteer, Mr Kennaway is not too shy to ask. When Swampy and friends set themselves up in his park just over a year ago in the protest against the Exeter to Hornton A30 dual carriage-way, now being carved through the middle of the estate, Mr Kennaway asked them if they would help him plant 1,000 mixed English hardwoods — beeches, oaks and chestnuts. They said: "Yes; certainly, as long as you show us which way is up." I thought they were joking but they weren't."

Ken gardeners who are members of the Friends of Escot also look after the estate's parkland, tackling anything from sowing paths to restoring ice ponds and an icehouse.

Such is the public enthusiasm for getting involved in other people's gardens that a National Trust head gardener, Richard Ayres, has organised two hands-on master classes at Anglesey Abbey, Cambridge. On Thursday, April 2 at 6pm, herbaceous borders are the topic. "And I shall have tools there for anyone who wants to have a go at planting or dividing," says Mr Ayres.

If you want to take part in this new wave of gardening generosity, then contact plantsman James Smart, whose Marwood Hill Gardens, Barnstaple, are open daily through the year. As Dr Smart wistfully reports: "On

occasion I have put up a notice inviting help with deadheading rhododendrons, but the only response I've ever had was: 'I'd love to do it but I live in Lancashire.' If anyone more local presents themselves I would be delighted."

Nicholas Wray with volunteer gardeners at the University of Bristol Botanical Garden. "People have to be self-motivated"

- David Edwards, Olivers, Olivers Lane, Cheltenham, Glos GL1 4LL (01242 522089)
- John-Michael Kennaway, Eescot, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1LU (01404 822089)
- James Smart, Marwood Hill, Barnstaple, Devon EX11 1EB (01277 342529)
- Richard Ayres' master classes, Tickets, price £5, from the National Trust, Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB5 0EJ (01223 812100)

**Original  
BOX-SASH  
or HINGED  
WINDOWS.  
FRONT DOORS,  
FRENCH DOORS**

The finest timber superbly crafted. Double glazed. The friendliest help and service.

Write or phone for free Handbook  
**ORIGINAL BOX SASH WINDOW CO (Dept.DH)  
FREEPOST 25,  
Unit 10, Bridgewater Way, Windsor, Berks SL4 1RR.  
01753 858190**

**ATTENTION TO ALL  
GARDENERS**  
OVER 200 PRODUCTS  
TO CHOOSE FROM  
GET YOUR FREE  
CATALOGUE  
TODAY!  
100% GUARANTEED  
DELIVERY  
FREEPHONE 0800 200 0000

**You'll love  
ROSEMARY**  
★ Evergreen, hardy  
herb or coniferous  
for the garden  
★ Fertiliser of  
natural herbs  
in Spring  
PLANT ROSEMARY NOW... The Rosemary Bush will mature into a beautiful flowering informal 6-7 foot hedge after just 2 or 3 seasons. Plant as a companion near your front door for a fragrant welcome.

The French Sprig Rosemary Bush, ROSEMARY will transform your garden with a cluster of exotic blue flowers top to bottom — each one a small perfectly formed star. In Winter ROSEMARY smells divine and is beautiful. ROSEMARY grows from your garden all year through — to flavour and enhance your meals, salads and garnishes.

**£3.45  
5 FOR £13.45  
10 FOR £25.15  
20 FOR £46.95**  
plus P&P  
on any order

Post your order now  
**BRAMLEY'S NURSERIES**  
221 BENEFIELD ROAD • SOUTH BENEFIELD • BIRKBECK

**Callers Welcome  
Open 7 Days a Week**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

**£17.95**

<

# When baby cries, read all about it

Emma Mahony selects her favourites from the numerous mother-and-baby books

**M**y parents had it easy. If they had a problem with their baby in the 1960s, all they did was reach for Dr Benjamin Spock. On his advice we were left to cry ourselves to sleep at night, scream the place down before our next four-hour feed, and kept in quiet nurseries to avoid "over-stimulation". What is now diagnosed as colic in the early evening was then known as the baby's "crying time", and the longed-for early smiles were called "wind".

We modern mothers are victims of information overload. Conflicting advice is flung at us from every direction - check out the mother-and-baby section in any bookshop and you will find it groaning under the weight of self-proclaimed experts in the field of motherhood. Flick through the manuals and one will tell you never to have your child in bed with you, while another threatens lifelong estrangement if you do not. Let the baby tell you when it is hungry, says one guide; feed them at set times only, says another; smack the baby if it is naughty, never hit your child; at six months babies are quite able to recognise simple words, do not even attempt to teach your child to read before the age of three. Whatever you do, you are going to be wrong.

Many of the recent generation of children were brought up on Penelope Leach's *Baby and Child*. Written for the stay-at-home mother, it is full of smug solutions such as this one for separation anxiety: "It is amazing how much one can accomplish with a baby on one's hip; indeed, the author became so accustomed to this way of life that she became convinced she had mislaid a child and started a frantic search before discovering that he was, and all along had been, in that accustomed position." I have tried this one; it does not work.

**H**er new updated version, *The New Penelope Leach - Your Baby and Child*, loses none of her know-it-all advice but does at least recognise working parents, even if it still does like to keep them in their place. When one mother despairs of "comforting a baby who keeps crying; entertaining one who can neither sleep nor read a book", Leach wastes no time in telling the mother: "If you really didn't try to meet newborn needs as best you can - by delegation if not in person - you'd have reason to feel guilty. This is your child, after all; you're responsible for her and she's dependent on you." So there.

For a different approach - mother rather than baby-oriented - Sheila Kitzinger, the other high priestess of babyhood, has written *The Year After Childbirth: surviving the first year of motherhood*. If you can turn a blind eye to the



■ *The Girlfriend's Guide to Pregnancy* by Vicki Irvine (Bloomsbury, £14.99). The only funny book on pregnancy ever written. ★★★★

■ *What to Expect - the first year* (Simon and Schuster, £12.99). Excellent reference with a clear month-by-month layout. ★★★★

■ *The New Penelope Leach: Your Baby and Child* (Penguin, £15.99). Baby-oriented and a bit smug. ★★★★

■ *Sheila Kitzinger: The Year after Childbirth* (OUP, £9.99). Mother-oriented and easy to read. ★★★★

■ *Dr Miriam Stoppard: Complete Baby and Child Care* (Dorling Kindersley, £16.99). Best for health, worst for layout. ★★★★

■ *How Not to Be a Perfect Mother* by Libby Purves (HarperCollins, £5.99). Witty, anecdotal and sympathetic to the working mother. ★★★★

■ *The NCT book of Pregnancy, Birth & Parenthood* (OUP, £10.99). Technical and worthy. ★★★★

■ *Natural Childhood: A Practical Guide to the first seven years* (Gaia, £14.99). Interesting intellectual theories in an impenetrable style. ★★★★

■ *The Complete Book of Pregnancy and Baby Care* (Lorenz, £16.99). Pretty pictures and fine text. ★★★★

■ *Baby Signs: How to talk to your baby before your baby can talk* (Holder & Stoughton, £9.99). An idea unworthy of being published in book form. ★★★★

photographs of women in labour and hurry through the pages on birth as the ultimate sexual experience, this book is sensibly written and tackles taboos subjects, such as sex after childbirth, which others tend to ignore.

*Complete Baby and Child Care* by Dr Miriam Stoppard rounds off Macbeth's trio of female gurus. Her information on health is good but the format lets her down. Lumping Young baby, Older baby, Toddler and Pre-school together in chapters titled "Feeding and nutrition" makes it difficult to read.



Completely booked out: Tam Yates, one year old, examines some of the conflicting advice that is offered to mothers and babies.

My favourite book is *What to Expect in the First Year*, published by Simon and Schuster. During pregnancy many women buy its sister title, *What to Expect When You're Expecting*, for the month-by-month drawings of what the foetus looks like. The same format works well in the first year. Each chapter is prefaced by "What your baby may be doing" with a helpful section on "What you may be concerned about" dressed up as quotes from concerned parents (Mouth five: "My daughter has been pulling at her ear a lot. She

doesn't seem to be in any pain, but I'm worried that she might have an ear infection"). About 200 pages cover common illnesses, including psychological problems ("I'm jealous of the time my husband spends with our daughter"). If your baby wakes up with conjunctivitis, this is the book you want in the house.

If it is loony books you want, then *Baby Signs - How to talk to your baby before your baby can talk* is good for a giggle. Aimed at mothers with babies from eight to 18 months, it promises that if you flap your arms and say "birdie" every

time one flies into view, soon your baby will be flapping its own arms when a bird appears. I have been trying this in the park and have attracted a lot of puzzled looks - particularly from the baby.

Perhaps a man should have the last word - the prophet Khalil Gibran, quoted in *Natural Childhood*. He says: "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you."

This is a poignant message for those of us who reach for the bookshelf when things go wrong.

Travelling with baby, page 31

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

## ORDER YOUR HEALING BINDER TODAY

Part 5 of Healing, *The Times*'s definitive guide to complementary medicine, is inserted free in today's *Times Magazine*. This six-part series will combine to form a 192-page A-Z guide to the treatment of about 200 ailments and will focus on more than 30 beneficial therapies. The series includes articles by the leading figures in the world of complementary medicine, as well as interviews with celebrities who reveal their favourite alternative health regimes.

Healing will be a valuable work of reference. To ensure you keep all six parts in pristine condition, a high-quality binder is available, costing just £2.49. You can order the binder by calling our hotline on 01525 851945 or by using the coupon below.

• Readers ordering the binder can buy back issues of Healing at the special price of 85p each, inc p&p, using the coupon below. Back copies can be ordered without a binder at £3 each by calling 0181-688 6323.



### THE TIMES HEALING BINDER ORDER FORM

Send coupon with remittance to: *The Times* Healing Binder Offer, FX296, PO Box 68, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send me ..... (enter quantity) *Times* Healing binders @ £2.49 each inc p&p. (Add £1 for Irish Republic)

Also send me the following Healing supplement(s) @ 85p each (enter qty in box)  Part 1,  Part 2,  Part 3,  Part 4

I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) payable to: *The Times* FX296

Value £

No

Or debit my Visa/Mastercard number:

Print Name Date

Signature Expiry date

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK and Irish Republic only subject to availability. Please write name and address on back of all cheques.

1. On which day(s) do you usually buy *The Times*?  Mon  Tues  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Don't usually buy *The Times*

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a month?  3-4 copies per month?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a month?  1-2 copies per month?

5. If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick here

6. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

7. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

8. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

9. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

10. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

11. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

12. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

13. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

14. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

15. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

16. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

17. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

18. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

19. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

20. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

21. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

22. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

23. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

24. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

25. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

26. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

27. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

28. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

29. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

30. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

31. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

32. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

33. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

34. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

35. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

36. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

37. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

38. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

39. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

40. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

41. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

42. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

43. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

44. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

45. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

46. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

47. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

48. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

49. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

50. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

51. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

52. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

53. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

54. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

55. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

56. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

57. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

58. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

59. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

60. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

61. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing supplement

62. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

63. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

64. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

65. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

66. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

67. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

68. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

69. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

70. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

71. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

72. Please send me information on the *Times* Healing binder

'It was a painful conversation. I can take a joke about my cooking. Of course I can. But there is such a thing as Going Too Far'

We nearly didn't make it to the Countryside March, my hip flask of sloe gin and I. It had been a date for ages, ever since my friend keeps a day's unpaid leave to go marching — this is his idea of a joke — do you want to come with us? Not half, I said.

The Countryside Rally, which we went to last year, was as good as a play. I "Good," said Charles. "Bring some pretty friends."

So for weeks I had been happily planning picnic baskets and wondering what to wear. And I had just settled on smoked salmon sandwiches, a pink suede miniskirt and Blahnik kitten heels when — disaster!

We had, Charles and me, the most tremendous row. This is not the first time we have had a falling out. Almost 15 years ago, I was sitting opposite him at supper when, during a lull in the conversation, he absent-mindedly picked up the sugar bowl and emptied it on my head.

There ensued some years of *froideur*. But eventually I forgave the old thing —

## Charles gets his marching orders

he is very eccentric and peculiar — and we set off again on the best of terms. Since then, I have hardly had to speak sharply to him at all.

But then, a couple of weeks ago, he turned up with that expression on his face that means he is expecting dinner. "Come in," I said. "How lovely to see you. Lasagne all right?" "Perfect," said Charles, producing from his keeper's pocket an ink bottle of blended claret. Now, I know that he is not a great fan of my cooking — too much garlic and suspect greenery. Not enough swede. He shares this view with Alexander who, offered anything more ambitious than chicken, dinosaurs or Thomas pasta shapes, pokes at it disinterestedly and says (without even tasting it, which is what kills me about the whole performance): "Too slimy. Too revolting. Take it away." Still, lasagne seemed a safe enough bet — shepherd's pie by other means, really. So I got cracking with Elizabeth David's *ragu bolognese*, while Charles settled

down in front of *Noel's House Party*.

Some time later... "What's that?" said Charles, spitting out a chicken liver. "Don't do that, please," I said, my smacking hand itching. "It's chicken liver. It's canonical. Elizabeth David says so. Think yourself lucky I didn't put in ovarine, the unlaid eggs found inside the hen, especially in spring, when the hens are laying — but you know all about those, Charlie."

A painful conversation followed. I can take a joke about my cooking. Of course I can. But there is such a thing as Going Too Far. A frost formed as we parted. Some days later, he rang. But it was too late. Having made the effort to clamber

on to my high horse, I couldn't see my way to coming down again in time for the Countryside March. When small children take this line, their mummies call it *Cutting Off Your Nose To Spite Your Face*.

Once embarked upon, it is fearfully difficult to give up.

So I was sitting

there, on Saturday night, feeling sorry for myself and worried, when the phone rang. It was Katie. "So," she said. "What's the story? Where are we meeting? I'm longing to meet Charles. Is he really as mad as you say?" Oh crikey. Of course. I had invited Katie, too. My pretty friend. "Well," I said. "It's like this..."

There was a pause while we wondered what to do now. I knew what she was thinking. Katie, like me, is equally unversed by politics and large crowds of people. Especially if they might shout slogans.

"I've never been on an actual demonstration before," said Katie, eventually. "The nearest thing was going to hear the choir at Magdalen Tower on May Morning. Still, it seems a bit pathetic not to, doesn't it? When people are coming from Northumberland and Wales and stuff."

We didn't, of course, in the end. No shouting, no slogans, no baton charges,

no anti-brandishing scaffolding poles. Just a jolly pep talk from a jovial policeman on a Roman-nosed chestnut gelding: "Don't surge forward, ladies and gentlemen. The people behind might think you know something. But you know nothing." And a short, congenial stroll in the sunshine.

"Well," said Katie afterwards, as we sat in the pub drinking pints of Adams. "I feel almost as though I'd achieved something. But I'm not at all sure that I deserve to feel like that."

### LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

It was the food that clinched it in the end. Keen cooks (if, in my case, unappreciated), we both, once wed started to talk about it, found ourselves becoming quite indignant about no brains, no bone marrow, no ox tail, no beef on the bone, no raw milk. "Oh really," said Katie, starting to giggle. "We can't have become politicised, at our age, because we like foxes and foxhounds and stuff!"

MAN IN BLACK / INSET



The will to win shows on the faces of boys during a game of mini-rugby at Kings College Junior School, Cambridge, but there are doubts about the suitability of the sport

## The dangers of child's play

Mini-rugby, a game created to give children a gradual introduction to the adult game, is now a popular part of family life. But is it teaching the right lessons? And is it safe? Fred Redwood investigates



Jones was seriously injured in a Welsh club match and will never play again; his career in medicine is also now in doubt

being played too competitively too soon. Mini-rugby is an excellent game, with which I am fully involved, but sometimes it is not played in the right spirit. One reason for this is that often rugby matches are not organised in the schools, so boys go to the clubs, instead, to learn the game.

"There is a danger in this. A good physical education teacher will attempt to inculcate moral and educational values through the physical application of a sport. In other words, if a boy isn't playing within the spirit of the game then he will be pulled up. But if former club players have sole responsibility for teaching youngsters rugby, then the skills may well be effectively taught, but good behaviour and sportsmanship can go by the board."

Many schools now choose to have nothing to do with coaching rugby. Some teachers maintain that a game in which success is so heavily dependent on the physical ascendency of big children over smaller ones doesn't deserve a place on the curriculum.

Also, a new, professional, profit-oriented outlook has replaced the duffel coat-and-scarf amateur ethos. Many lovers of the game don't like it. International match tickets for a father and son used to be easily within the budget of the average man. Stand tickets for one of today's games will set you back at least £30. A hospitality package could cost you — or, more likely, your company — in the region of £700.

Top clubs have learnt their marketing from football and they too now take full advantage of their young supporters, selling them playing strips at inflated prices. In short, the "ruffians" game played by gentlemen's days are over.

There is also the worry of injury. Rugby has claimed 14 lives in the past 25 years and it results in about ten



Fenn discovered the hard way foul play can hurt when he needed 25 stitches after part of his ear was bitten off by an opponent

serious spinal injuries every year. The most recent casualty from the senior ranks was the Wales captain, Gwyn Jones, a student doctor whose future medical career is now in doubt after he suffered a serious spinal injury in a club match between Cardiff and Swansea on December 12. He was temporarily paralysed and doctors at first thought he had broken his neck. Jones, 25, will certainly never play rugby again.

So how can you best be taught to play the game in the right spirit? Tony Reynolds, the physical education inspector for Hampshire and a rugby enthusiast, agrees with Kevin Bowring that club coaches play a vital role.

"Rugby should be taught as an exciting handling game and not as a full-blooded confrontational battle between two teams," he says. "Most of all, the game should be 'loosely' refereed, instead of from a letter of the law standpoint."

"Winning and losing should not be all-important and the referee should be able to intervene during the match to offer coaching. It's difficult to do this in front of a partisan crowd but it's vital that the game is played in this kind of atmosphere."

Football has already gained an ugly reputation for its over-competitive young boys' leagues. Sunday morning kickabouts now commonly involve a "manager" berating his charges at half-time with Premiership expletives. It is a worrying thought that mini-rugby may be going the same way.

Tony Reynolds disagrees. "The Rugby Football Union is aware of this danger and it is already working to counter it. Courses are being run for coaches and referees where the real aims of mini-rugby are stressed."

"As regards the problem of overexercised parents, many clubs will now take these people to one side and ask them to calm down or leave. There is even an RFU prize for good crowd behaviour. These initiatives should ensure that rugby maintains its traditional reputation for good sportsmanship."

They are fine sentiments — particularly welcome on a day when there is another round of Five Nations Championship matches. But whether the crowd at a Skewen against Bon Y Maen fixture will ever win a prize for good behaviour is quite another matter. And whether their 12-year-old children should be playing in such a hothouse atmosphere is a question that they should seriously be asking themselves.

## And there's another thing ...

### SEVEN LONG DAYS: AS A BORE

I WAS immensely flattered when my Editor dared me to become a bore for a week. After all, if he'd already thought of me as a bore, he wouldn't have made such a tactless suggestion. Or would he?

Before embarking on my bore-a-thon, I studied more experienced bores in the hope of copying their technique. Few of them stood up to close scrutiny.

Steve Davies, for example, is famously uninteresting, but the way Steve has capitalised on his supposed lack of personality is anything but boring, even if snooker is tedious.

Bores tend to be pedantic and long-winded, like Tony Benn when he says things like: "Of course, they all thought Nye Bevan was mad when he became Labour's Minister for Health in 1945 and even madder when he went on to found the NHS in 1948..." But Tony is reportedly one of the few politicians to have annoyed the Queen Mother, which in my book makes him a bit of a lad.

In the end, the only truly insipid person I could think of was my old pottery teacher. As well as teaching ceramics, which is an incredibly boring subject. George was incredibly vain. He'd written a series of thin books about pottery, all generously illustrated with photos of himself at work on some awful earthenware monstrosity, or smiling next to his kiln.

George was far more interested in being a writer than teaching pottery and used to say: "I suppose it must be quite a thrill for you to be taught by a published author."

By an amazing coincidence, I too am a published author. Modelling myself on George, I set to work at once by reading selected extracts from my first novel to a taxi driver during a journey from King's Cross to Victoria. The hapless cabby tried to put me off.

"Year? Bet I could write a book. Fings I've seen..." I quickly silenced him by telling him that he couldn't. As we parted, I said: "It must have been quite a thrill for you to give a ride to a published author." The cabby called me "a stupid tart" and drove off at speed.

AFTER lunch I retired to my study to write something dull. Then I went for a short walk. In the evenings I watched television, ate dinner and went to bed.

After four days of this, I realised that there was no difference between my normal existence and my life-as-a-bore. This depressed me. When I accepted this challenge, I imagined that I lived life on the edge. Now I realise that I am teetering on the brink of total tedium. All I lack is a kiln.

Nonetheless, it must have been a thrill for you to read an article by a published author.

### TO HELL WITH IT, LET'S PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED BORING

THAT'S IT, I TALKED TO THE EDITOR OF POTTERY FOR BEGINNERS

ROBERT THOMPSON

During my boring week I was obliged to give a talk about journalism to a class of 13 year olds. This seemed like a perfect opportunity to bore a captive audience. But I arrived at the school to find that the teenagers were already bored out of their skulls. Then I inadvertently woke them up by admitting most journalists were alcoholics and cocaine-addicts. But then I bored them back to sleep again by saying that I had never taken cocaine and kept my alcohol consumption to a minimum.

I quickly learnt that no matter how boring you are, someone somewhere will find you riveting. On a country bus ride, I tried to bore the driver into a coma by making crushingly obvious remarks. But when I said: "Looks like you're going to pick up two more passengers", the driver laughed as if I'd made a witty observation and said: "The more, the merrier." I tried again with: "I think you'll find you need second gear for this corner." The driver winked at me and said: "Yes, indeed, second gear does it every time."

My regime during bore-week was as follows: each day, I awoke at about 8.15 and had a breakfast of two hot crumpets covered in Flora margarine. Sometimes, if hunger persisted, a third crumpet was deemed necessary. Then I sat in front of the television for hours with my two-year-old to watch an endless succession of Disney videos. Lunch was light, either a sandwich or soup. (Am I boring you?)

AFTER lunch I retired to my study to write something dull. Then I went for a short walk. In the evenings I watched television, ate dinner and went to bed.

After four days of this, I realised that there was no difference between my normal existence and my life-as-a-bore. This depressed me. When I accepted this challenge, I imagined that I lived life on the edge. Now I realise that I am teetering on the brink of total tedium. All I lack is a kiln.

Nonetheless, it must have been a thrill for you to read an article by a published author.

### TO HELL WITH IT, LET'S PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED BORING

THAT'S IT, I TALKED TO THE EDITOR OF POTTERY FOR BEGINNERS

ROBERT THOMPSON



Simon Cowell has exchanged life in the City for Wildlife Aid

## All things wild and wonderful

**Simon Cowell was a City broker. Now he tends to injured creatures in his sanctuary, Wildlife Aid. Derwent May met him**

**C**hannel 5 viewers last night saw the first episode in a striking new 26-part series called *Wildlife SOS*. It is about a refuge in Surrey where thousands of wild creatures, from bats to fallow deer, are nursed back to health, often after terrible injuries, before being released back into the wild.

The refuge is a one-time farmhouse near Leatherhead. It is a remarkable place, run by a remarkable man. Simon Cowell, who is in his late forties, was a commodity broker in the City, but soon after he bought the farm in 1979, he and his wife turned part of it into a small hospital for wildlife.

More and more wounded animals and birds came pouring in, so he became a part-time broker. Then in 1987 he turned his creation, now named Wildlife Aid, into a registered charity and, in 1994, he gave up the City to run it full-time, for no pay. He says it is all worthwhile for that glorious 30 seconds when he releases a healed creature back to nature.

The main hospital is in an outbuilding. Its most striking feature is the long line of cages — and what they contain.

In the first cage, there was a feral pigeon that had fallen down a chimney into a fireplace, and flown round the room with a wing on fire.

Christine Barrett, the senior supervisor, held it gently and showed me the affected area. It would be a long time before new feathers grew, but the hospital would see it through.

Next was a tawny owl who peered at me through one eye from the dusky depths of its cage. This bird had been hit by a car, it had been badly bruised; an eye had been damaged, and it had lost its sense of balance. It would be fed on dead chicks until it, too, was ready to go.

There was a hedgehog whose stomach had been ripped open by a bull terrier, but whose wound was healing.

I was told of another hedgehog whose prickles had been almost entirely stripped off by a strimmer. Two baby collared doves that had been picked up in a school playground were being fed on milk.

Perhaps the most remarkable animal was a long-eared bat that a cat had been playing with. Barrett opened a large box, inside which this tiny creature, less than three inches long (including its ears), clung to a piece of cloth. She stretched out its wing to show me that on one side it had lost half the membrane that joins the wing-bone to the leg. It had learnt to come



All creatures great and small are cared for at Wildlife Aid, a refuge in Surrey. It is a voluntary concern supported by donations and subscribers worldwide



Wildlife Aid receives 15,000 distress calls a year and there are plans to build a larger centre

down to the floor of its box to eat mealworms — a surprising ability for an animal that feeds entirely on the wing — and the hospital team were confident the membrane would grow again.

Next I went out to the garden, where there is a pond, and many larger cages for bigger animals to convalesce in. A few Canada geese wandered round the pond; birds that would never be released because they were born with a malformation called "aeroplane wing", and had feathers sticking

out from their wings on both sides. There were some orphaned fox cubs in cages here, and Cowell told me that with the main birth-season imminent there would soon be many more.

He had recently seen a litter of eight sheltering under a piece of wood leaning against a garage wall, and had decided to let them be. The vixen was still about and feeding them, and his policy — right, I believe —

was to leave animals in the wild if they could live naturally. Hazards and danger had to be accepted as part of life.

Also in the grounds are laboratories with X-ray and anaesthetic equipment and other veterinary facilities. Three vets oversee the operations, which have a 60-70 per cent success rate. The vets give their time freely, as does Barrett, who comes in four days a week, and two other women supervisors who share the rest of the week between them.

The centre has a further 140 volunteers — and even that is not enough to tend all the victims, who may have to be fed throughout the night, or may stay for many months and need continual clearing.

The centre takes distress calls day and night.

Cowell is usually on night call, and his involvement seems never-ending. He has found sponsors for the centre, successfully sought gifts of equipment from hospitals, built up a 2,000-strong, worldwide subscribing membership — and even

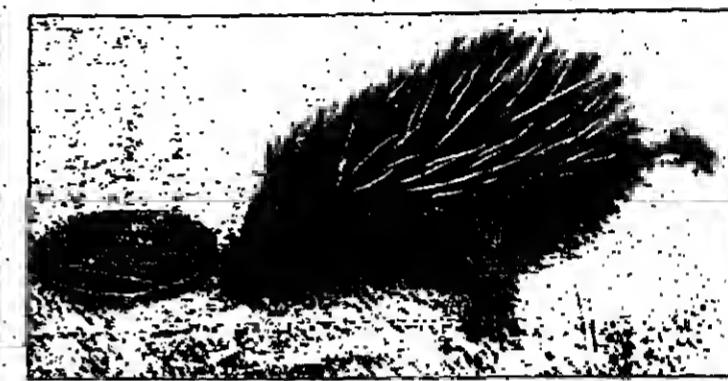
made the excellent films that are being shown on Channel 5. He is now planning to build a larger centre somewhere in Surrey or Sussex. With 15,000 incoming calls a year about animals in trouble, he feels a desperate need to expand.

His motives mix the concerns of conservation and welfare. Conservation, as such, would not consider it important to save a burnt falcon, but for him every suffering wild creature counts.

At the same time he passionately wants future generations to be able to enjoy nature in the wild. These feelings come together in his credo: "We harm nature so much. So let us put as much back into it as we possibly can."

Wildlife Aid is doing just that, and deserves the support of everyone who marched for the countryside last weekend — whatever they were marching for.

■ *Wildlife Aid, Randalls Farmhouse, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0AL (0372 377332). Emergency helpline (calls 5p per minute): 0899 34132.*



A tiny hedgehog is among those being nursed back to health



This bat was mauled by a cat

When

the

country

is

in

the

city

the

'Ammunition being blown up in the lavatories, mooning championships, and the start of passionate love affairs...'

**T**he last time a Gulf War loomed, my eldest son decided he wanted to become a fighter pilot and bomb time, but it meant that I had to promise to enrol him in the Air Training Corps. Casual visitors to the countryside may not be aware of this but, at weekends and in the holidays, the aircraft you hear overhead and the tank you see rumbling in the distance could well be being piloted by enthusiastic 13-year-olds from the Cadet arms of the Services. (As there are 127,000 cadets swarming around the UK countryside they are hard to miss.) I've got no military background, so I don't know what to expect when my son was finally old enough to join a Cadet air squadron.

Almost at once, his character changed in peculiar and unexpected ways:

"He'd always been an untidy, dreamy person, but suddenly he was begging me to shave off his long hair, and spending all his free time ironing his lapels and trying to get a mirror shine on the toes of his boots. He studied photos of aircraft obsessively and was often to be seen marshalling his toddler brother into drill positions in the yard."

The squadron he was attached to seemed to go in for pleasingly bizarre activities.

Every few weeks there'd be a night exercise which meant that my son would have to stay out overnight until break-time, returning pink with pleasure and covered in mud and a variety of prickles.

I finally discovered that he and the other cadets were spending three nights being hunted through pitch-dark woodland by their superior officers.

The prickles were there because my son had discovered that the best way to evade capture was to wear three balaclava helmets at once and dive head-first into a thorn-bush. No one could bear to follow.

When I mentioned that I thought this behaviour a bit odd, a friend living in Gloucestershire told me that she'd seen her son, who was attached to the Army Cadets, trundling through Bourton-on-the-Water at midnight with a crowd of

teens carrying another cadet on a stretcher, and frequently dropping him.

Still, at least our sons never came home plastered in manure. According to another mother, at the end of a night exercise the officer-in-charge liked to "crown" the cadet who had been the most annoying and unhelpful.

Fascinating stories filtered back from summer camp, too. Along with the expected diversions such as flying a Hercules, sailing a Rustler 36, or learning how to handle a semi-automatic 303, my son and his friends were sampling some of the other, less well-advertised, delights of the military.

## DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

Heavy sleepers woke to find themselves strapped to the roof-beams of the dormitories, live rounds of ammunition were blown up in the lavatories, mooning championships were held, and passionate love-affairs began.

One particular friend of my son who wishes to remain anonymous, fell asleep in a girl

cadet's tent while camping at RAF Benson. He woke at 2am, horrified to hear a patrol approaching.

A torch beam was shone to his face as he lay in a jumble of bedding, feigning unconsciousness.

Just as he thought he was about to be court-martialed or worse, one of the

patrol remarked in a scornful tone: "Cor, what an horrible ugly bird". before moving off.

I don't mean to criticise the Cadet Services. I couldn't be more pleased that kind, volunteer adults were prepared to spend so much of their time with my son, and his friends.

One of them maintained that Cadets were more of a rite of passage than a career move, and that the only people he knew who were still dewy-eyed about the Armed Services were those who hadn't spent their teens simulating combat conditions in a remote patch of underbrush.

For me, this disenchantment is the best part of the deal. However noble it may be to lay down one's life for one's country, I'd much rather my son had a safe desk-job.

And I'm thrilled that the military — out of the goodness of its heart — has devoted so much time and effort to working him round to the same point of view.



A man of letters, Sandy Macfarlane steps ashore on Inchmurrin, an island on Loch Lomond, to deliver the mail on one of the most beautiful postal rounds in Britain

## When storms stop the post

Postman Sandy Macfarlane has one of the most unusual rounds in Britain. Kevin Pilley dons his sou'wester to help with deliveries

**R**oy Rodgers, Tonto and the Prince of Wales are all on Sandy Macfarlane's postal round. Eight times a month in winter and 12 in summer, he sails from the aluhama boatyard on the southeastern shore of Loch Lomond to deliver the Royal Mail to the islands on Britain's longest strip of inland water: its round is 23 miles long, five miles wide and about 600ft deep.

Three generations of Macfarlanes have been authorised to carry the Royal Mail on the loch. The contract has been in the family since it was awarded to Sandy's father and grandfather in 1948. "I don't know who will take it over from me as I have four daughters," says Mr Macfarlane, 32, who first went out on the mail boat when he was a baby. His stepfather, Sandy, a former lorry driver, drives a former lorry driver, tips out.

"Nothing much has changed over the years. We deliver on Monday and Thursday as well from May to October. We still have the same three boats and we still have a Border collie, called Kip. We had three Sallys before him. That's the only thing I suppose I have changed — the dog."

In summer, Royal Mail pigeons flying, two boats are used — the 36ft Marion, built in 1938 and named after Sandy's grandfather's niece,

and the 31ft Margaret, built in 1947 and named after his grandmother. In winter, Mr Macfarlane uses the tiny Lady Jean, named after the former Duchess of Montrose. In summer, passengers pay £6 for the three-hour round trip at a maximum speed of eight knots. "It can take longer when I am on my own, depending on what hospitality I receive and who's about and wants a chat," he says. There are 39 named islands inside the loch. Inchmurrin, one and three-quarter miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, is the largest. "Some are just swirling weeds, floating islands or underwater hazards," Mr Macfarlane says. "Prince of Wales Island is just a blip on the loch floor and is submerged most of the time. It is named after a paddle-steamer which struck it some time in the 1950s."

Inchmurrin is named after St Mirenn, who built an early Christian church there. Many



Sandy Macfarlane's grandfather, Alexander, delivering the mail 50 years ago

of the islands have connections with saints and Christian missionaries. They also have been clan strongholds, refuges from mainland plagues and sites for illicit whisky distilleries.

Inchmurrin and Inchtauvannach were once used as drying-out places for alcoholics. Inchtauvannach was planted with yew trees by Robert the Bruce for his bowmen. Larch trees grow on most of the other islands.

Inchmurrin is owned by the Scott family. After mooring the Lady Jean and stowing Kip below deck so he won't worry the cattle, Mr Macfarlane picks up the letters and walks up to one of the four homes on the island.

**T**he Scotts have 39 cattle, two tractors, a horse called Tonto, nine enough pheasants for a syndicate shoot every summer and Brodie, a labrador. Tom Scott's father, a sheep farmer from Ayrshire, bought the island in 1940. "I don't know how much for. They gave places like this away in those days," he says.

Mr Scott met his wife, Anne, at a Young Conservatives' do-

on the mainland. They have two married sons, Dougal, a locum vet, and David, a farmer, who live with their families on the island.

Mrs Scott says: "The arrival of the mail boat was always a social occasion. I can remember Sandy's dad always had a quarter-bottle of whisky with him and he used to pass out the drama to the men. He never gave me one though."

"My father and grandfather once walked across the ice eight miles here and back to deliver mail when the loch froze over in 1963," Mr Macfarlane says. Electricity was installed in the 1940s and a hotel was built in 1961. Self-catering flats are open from April to October. Weddings are held on the island. The Scotts take their water from the loch and recycle much of their rubbish.

Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have stayed at Lennox Castle on Inchmurrin. The island is now the home of the Scottish Outdoors Centre.

Next stop was Inchtauvannach island, leased by fireman Roy Rodgers. He is not about. Neither is the anonymous tenant of Inchinnanachan

The mail boat passes the Loch Lomond Golf Club which will host the Scottish Open this year. The final call is the last of the four islands inhabited all year, the privately owned Inchfad, which is about a mile long. The pier has collapsed and the caretakers, Derek and Michael Wood, come to collect their post.

An artist and a former accountant, the Woods brothers, from Nottingham, are the only Englishmen on the loch. They have been looking after Inchfad for three years. "It is mainly dealing with the thousands of moles," Michael says.

The wind gets up and the rain comes down. The strongest winds Mr Macfarlane has encountered have blown at force seven or eight. The mail run has been cancelled a few times in winter, but only once in summer in 50 years. George Johnson, who has just retired after sharing the postal duties for 15 years, once fell overboard and was in the water for 15 minutes before being rescued.

On his way back, Mr Macfarlane sees that the tide has put his sorting office 1ft underwater. He shrugs and, looking at Ben Lomond disappearing into the mist, says: "Ours must be one of the most beautiful postal rounds in the country."

FOR BRITISH birdwatchers, the main problem is distinguishing the chaffinch from the willow warbler arriving from early April onward.

When they are singing there is no problem. The willow warbler's delightful, rippling cadences are quite different from the other's leisurely "chink, chink, chink, chink".

Otherwise, the two species are very similar — both of them small greenish-buff birds with fine bills. The chaffinch usually has black legs, and the willow warbler red legs; also, the chaffinch is more white, less yellow beneath, and a bit scruffier. But how often can you see these things or be sure of them?

At any rate, it will be a good moment when the first unmistakable chaffinch appears this year. It will probably be singing near some water where there are already plenty of insects about, breaking off frequently to chase a passing

fly, then returning to its twig to sing again, and wagging its tail up and down in time with every note.

There are two other possible contenders for the title of first spring visitor of the year — the wheatear and the sand martin. Wheatears are seen in March in many places where they are not found in summer such as on playing fields.

In the early morning I have sometimes seen them in Regent's Park in central London. They stop here to feed on insects among the grass, and you first notice them as small whitish birds darting to and fro a long way off. Closer, you see their dark eye-stripes, and their white rump as they fly away. They are heading to the moors.

Sand martins appear in March over lakes. There are sometimes large flocks of these nimble brown birds swooping over the water is Peter Brown



Spring arrivals: chaffinch pursuit of flies. But they are soon on their way, uncomely birds now, heading for the remaining sandpits in Britain where they can burrow the holes and bring up the young in peace.

### DERWENT MA

• What's about Birds — watch for courtship displays by pairs of mute swans. Twitters — Alpine swift, Bodsworth Mere, Cheshire; surf scoter, Morecambe, Lancashire. Details from Birdline 0891 200222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

### ON THE SPOT: WEST YORKSHIRE

Rural recommendations

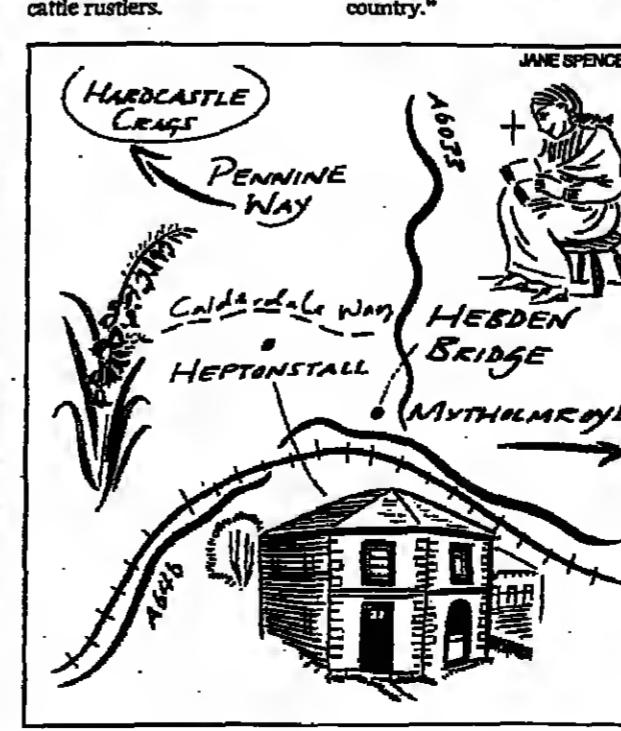
The place: the Wesleyan Chapel, Heptonstall. The view: clumps of trees follow the route of the River Calder and beyond these lie near fields. At the base of the hill is an old textile works and on the left sits Old Town Mill.

Afficionados: visitors from Britain and overseas. Historical interest: this pilgrimage site is the oldest Methodist chapel in the world to have been in continuous use since its construction in 1764. The octagonal design, fashionable at the time, was chosen so as not to conflict with the established Church. It is named after John Wesley, who laid the foundation stone. OS ref: 986/281 on sheet 103.

How to get there: take A646 from Halifax to Hebden Bridge then walk up the steep, cobbled footpath for half a mile. Time to visit: early spring to combine a visit to the Bluebell Woods at Hardcastle Crags.

Also nearby: 16th-century Hebden Bridge and excellent walking along the Pennine Way and Calderdale Way. Ted Hughes is three miles east.

DEBORAH KING



coffee with the Scott family provides a welcome break

# No business like dogshow business

Crufts is not all wagging tails and smiles. Carol Price goes backstage at the world's most popular pooch show

**A**s Crufts reaches its climax at the NEC today and tomorrow, there cannot be a car park or hotel bathroom in Birmingham where hairbrushes aren't being feverishly scraped through canine coats. Hundreds of nervous owners will be reaching for the talc, shampoo, tea tree oil, clippers, and hairy hair-dividing devices called "crackers", which turn your dog into a canine Hilda Ogden.

Although the top prize money is only £100 for Best in Show, competition is enormous. Every year the show attracts more dogs and exhibitors: today, just producing a dog good enough to qualify is a tall order and much harder than most pet owners might imagine.

First, you have to secure a pup with show-winning potential — in terms of looks and temperament — which only 5 to 10 per cent of all pedigree dogs possess.

Once you have found such a dog, the hard grind and the motorway driving begins. The next year may be spent traversing the British Isles to notch up that vital first, second or third placing at a national championship show — the dog-owner's passport to Crufts.

There are no guarantees at the shows, even if the dog is a top pedigree. At many shows, owners come away empty-handed, having spent hours of mind-numbing tedium waiting around the "benches" — or ringside kennel compartments — before they get to glimpse their judge. Boredom, nervous anticipation, elation, despair — no current Crufts qualifier will have avoided the mental rollercoaster.

The Robinson family, who this week travelled to the show from their home in Newton Abbey, Ireland, have done it all before. Alan Robinson and his wife, Deirdre, show-bred collies; today their eyes will be fixed on their daughter, Clare, who at the age of ten is one of Crufts' youngest ever tanders/qualifiers. She will be taking her Lhasa Apso, Holly, into the ring and admits to being "extremely nervous", despite the extensive preparation she has put in.

If Clare is one of the youngest Crufts exhibitors, then 82-



A last-minute spot of glossy coat grooming for one hopeful competitor (left); and a trolley ride allows another set of Crufts contestants to save their strength for the big show

BEN CRUTS

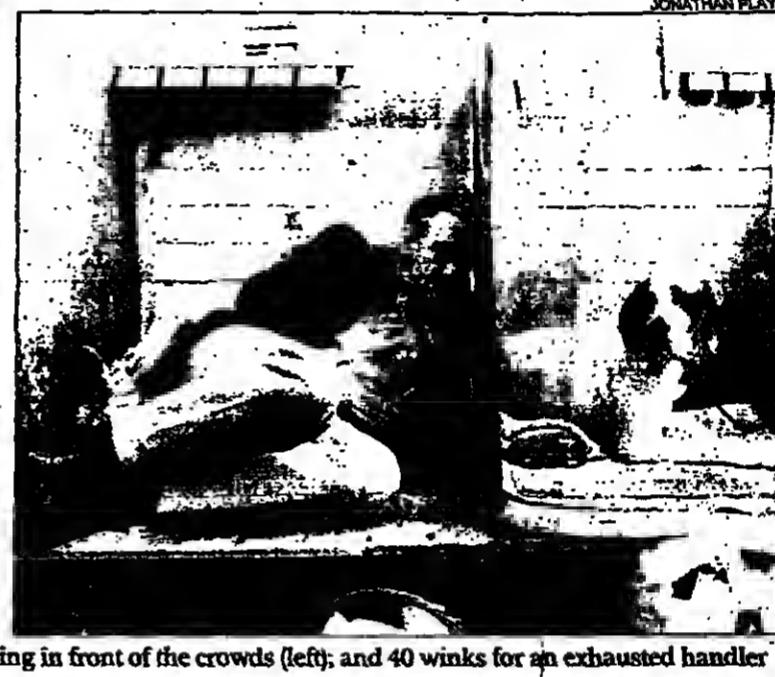


Say cheese: snap happy Strapper sets up a group shot



Time to relax before performing in the ring in front of the crowds (left); and 40 winks for an exhausted handler

JONATHAN PLANTER



year-old Molly Castle has to be one of the most seasoned. A breeder of more than 50 King Charles spaniel champions, Mrs Castle, from Huddersfield, has defied injury — a bad knee, resulting from a hip operation — to bring her two star bitches to the NEC.

Owners spend millions every year on dog products, but, according to Brian Leonard of the Kennel Club, not even a miracle cure can turn a so-so dog into a champion.

"It just has to have a natural star quality in the ring," he says. "Nothing else will do."

Last year's supreme Crufts champion, the Yorkshire terrier Ozzy, the Mystification, seemed to back up his theory

— the winner's diet was amply supplemented with packets of crisps, digestive biscuits and Marks & Spencer roast chicken thighs, with no apparent ill-effects.

Today's Crufts is no longer a simple dog show, but a four-day spectacular where traditional-breed exhibitors can be swamped by hundreds of trade stands and displays of dogs doing everything from herding ducks to hanging off the shoulders of motor-cycling policemen.

Worldwide, it has become

famous for its prestige, glamour, diversity — and the length of queues at its lavatories. Dogs seem well catered for in this area.

But Beverley Cuddy, publisher of *Dogs Today*, thinks human needs are notoriously less well met. If you are thinking of setting up a service at Crufts, she says, forget selling fancy collars and shark's cartilage for the dogs. "If you were to develop a stand at Crufts which was just toilets for humans, you'd be set to make a fortune."

**Crufts**, now in its 108th year, will cost the Kennel Club £2.3 million to set up and run. 20,892 pedigree dogs and 3,000 crossbreeds will be taking part. Some 100,000 human visitors are expected. Golden retrievers are the biggest single breed entry (33), followed by labradors (32); the lowest are Hungarian Kuvasz (3).

There are 180 judges aided by 350 stewards.

## CRUFTS BY NUMBERS

To accommodate the impact of 350,000 sets of paws and human feet, the NEC floor has to be covered in special carpet tiles. An estimated 750lb of dog hair and 1,800lb of doggy waste will have to be cleared during the show. TV coverage of Crufts '98 starts tonight on BBC2 (5.40pm). For ticklers call the NEC box office on 0121-767 4850.

## A VET WRITES

**Q** Last year you wrote about veterinary trilobites and gave an address to write to for further information. We've lost it. Can you help?

**A** The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Belgrave House, 62-64 Hungerford Road, London SW1P 2AF, will help — and appreciate a large stamped addressed envelope. Six universities award a degree in Veterinary Science or Medicine: Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and London. Write to the registrar of each for details of their veterinary school.

**Q** Freckles, our cocker spaniel bitch, is booked in for spaying next month, when she will be 11 months old. I'm told this operation involves removing her ovaries and uterus. Why do I simply tie the tubes, as in human sterilisation? Will she need hormone replacement therapy and will she get fat?

**A** Tying the fallopian tube will prevent conception, but she won't be neutered. While the ovaries remain, Freckles will come into season every six months, with all the usual complications. A false pregnancy will occur eight weeks after heat because her ovaries continue to make the hormones controlling this. As many unspayed bitches develop pyometritis — a serious infection of the uterus — in middle age. If the uterus isn't there, pyometritis can't happen. If you overfeed Freckles, she'll get fat, but guide dogs are spayed and castrated, and most have trim figures.

**Q** Have you any advice about introducing two kittens to our dog who respects cats — and Dais, a 13-year-old feline who respects nobody. Daisy's brother, Tom, disappeared three years ago, and since then Daisy has been very demanding. We don't want to hurt her, but we would like to sort the next generation of cats now. Or should we wait until Daisy goes?

**A** Daisy won't feel threatened by a pair of young kittens. If the youngsters return to get too familiar, tie will be spayed and spayed for the first fortnight, and later, at Daisy will make sure he remains "top cat". A 2ft square wooden box with a lid and a kitten-sized entrance. He makes an excellent safe-haven for the babies. Feed 'em all the cats at opposite sides of the same room so they get used to feeding together. Daisy will almost certainly take on a new lease of life when she has a couple of lively youngsters to keep up with — and keep order.

**JAMES ALLCOCK**

• Write to *The Times* Let, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

## ADOPT ME



**AUNTIE** (left) is a 14-year-old tortoiseshell cat with an affectionate nature. The tips of her ears are missing, due to a medical condition, but she is in good health and needs a loving home with an understanding and patient owner.

If you would like to adopt Auntie, please contact Wood Green Animal Shelter (01480 830014) and quote reference KC33162.



Well trained: the clicker

## One click and he'll be a good boy

**D**o not despair if your dog is a disobedient rascal — a new method has arrived from the United States called clicker training which has been used successfully with dolphins and performing whales. The clicker is a thin metal plate fixed at one end inside a plastic casing two inches long and one inch wide. The plate clicks when pressed down and clicks again when released. It costs about £2.50.

Among those leading the way is Sarah Whitehead, who runs sessions for puppies at her home near Windsor in Berkshire.

She says that an eight-week-old puppy, previously only any good at unravelling toilet rolls, will be coming to heel, sitting and staying within the first hour of her course. Five one-hour sessions over five weeks cost £40.

Animals are trained by clicking and treating. Give the dog its favourite treat and press the clicker. It soon learns that responding to the clicks brings home the goodies. Owners gain obedience based on trust and affection, rather than force and compulsion.

Ms Whitehead has clicker-trained her



Obediently yours: clicker dog

## ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

To advertise in this section contact Chris Marshall on 0171 680 6125 or Fax 0171 782 7799.

Other headings available in this section are: Charities; Pet Rescue; Horses; Grooming Services; Memorials; Kennels & Catteries; Lost Pets; Pet Friendly Accommodation; Shows. Any other title required unique to our animal world can be accommodated.

### ANIMAL HEALTH

**DON'T SHOOT THAT DOG!! LET BOB GRASS HELP SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS SKIN PROBLEMS!! NO PROBLEM**

Use the famous GRASS'S BRONCURE as used by breeders and kennels for over 60 years. For use on pets as an aid in the treatment of skin where there is scrotalism or irritation.

#### PERSONAL NOTE

THE ABOVE AND OTHER PRODUCTS WERE PUT ON THE MARKET OVER 60 YEARS AGO AS A PET OWNER I KNOW THEY ARE REALLY GOOD AND WILL HELP FAMILIAL AND VALUED PETS EVEN WHEN ALL ELSE HAS FAILED. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR HOW TO ORDER THIS PRODUCT PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:

**BOB GRASS**  
12 Aylesbury Road, Doncaster, DN2 6LT Tel: (01302) 344872



**THE ALTERNATIVE TO QUARANTINE.**

20 Seymour Road, London SW18 5JA. Tel: 0181-870 5960.

### RIDING HOLIDAYS

**Andalus Adventure**  
Corre de la Laza  
in S.W. Spain.

Holiday with ranch stables in hilly, country-side and miles of empty beaches. Fit horses, good guides and a warm welcome. Open all year.

For colour brochure and full details, fax:  
Jenny Sherriff 01935 801767

### GENERAL

WORLDWIDE Pet Travel Agency

Tel: 01483 608571 / Fax: 01483 608572

E-mail: [info@worldwidepettravel.co.uk](mailto:info@worldwidepettravel.co.uk)

Web site: [www.worldwidepettravel.co.uk](http://www.worldwidepettravel.co.uk)

## HOMES & GARDENS

Homes & Gardens classified also appears on pages 14 & 15

## HARD WATER

The scientific solution

We believe Krystal is the only water softener worth fitting.

■ Advanced computer technology with automatic 24-hour, 365-day programme

■ Compact size means installation is never a problem — even in the smallest spaces

■ Universal performance — Krystal is exceeding expectations where others fall

### FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE

Lime scale problems? Krystal can clear the whole house for less than £30!

Hard-water handle? Krystal gives you soft water from every tap.

Clogged-up shower heads? Krystal keeps them clean and clear.

Stains in the bath? Not with Krystal!

**NO-RISK HOME TRIAL - we give you 90 DAYS to try Krystal IN YOUR OWN HOME**

Call Free

**0800 590050** For your free brochure

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days

# Final cut for the Broadway Barber

**Barry Wigmore**  
(with apologies to  
Damon Runyon)  
meets the man  
who snipped the  
stars for 50 years

**O**n this day there arrives in this man's town an English guy with a little attaché case full of scissors, razors and combs; and he moves in to work at a barber shop on Broadway up near 103rd Street. This guy is called Kay Demetridis because his parents come from Greece. But he was born and raised in Soho, London, and is as English as roast beef in a refined kind of way, although even today, after 50 years in New York City, he still talks with a touch of a Mediterranean accent.

Now this is the time of the Roaring Forties when Broadway is the centre of the universe and the guys and dolls who live and work there consider someone from London to have class, especially when he has a little David Niven mustache and an accent. Because he has a very nice tale to tell about the British, aristocracy, and the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Simpson. Mr Kay and his barber shop are soon more than somewhat busy.

For 50 years Mr Kay flourishes and prospers, and in that time all manner of citizens, from princes and presidents to gangsters and gunmen — and, of course, many actors, who are somewhere in between — pass through his shop. He sees action outside as well, like the occasion death from lead poisoning which sometimes happens in this town.

In fact the Broadway Barber becomes an institution. Eleven folks about characters of the city get to mention him, and others come from all over for a haircut and a shoeshine in his shop. So when he finally decides to hang up his scissors, just about all of New York wishes to say goodbye.

The Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who will attend the opening of a can of beans to get his picture in the newspapers, going to a party with 1,000 other people and gives Mr Kay an illuminated address, thanking him for his contribution to the city's rich and colourful history.

**M**r Kay then makes himself even more popular when he announces that he is donating the entire contents of his shop to the local museum. As the shop as remained unchanged since it was built in 1907, it has the original reclining leather chairs, the copper tub for hot towels, 600 razors, display cases, and wonderful old bottles for oils and lotions along its marble shelves plus the striped barber pole outside, this has the museum curator very excited.

If fact he is so excited that the Museum of the City of New York is now rebuilding an entire floor so that it can put the old shop on show as a permanent exhibition.

It is just the old store that citizens find so exciting, however, it is all the old stories that go with it. And now Mr Kay sits in a wooden chair in his apartment 25 floors above New York. He is nearly 80 years old with big brown eyes and a soft voice, but his memory is still as sharp as his razors and he tells his story as follows:

The soap was started by an Italian immigrant (says Mr Kay). After ten years, when this guy was a small boy, he sells up and goes home to the land of spaghetti. The guy buys it as a gambler, and every night hauls the blinds and shoots caps with his employees. Unfortunately, he is not such a good crap player and one night he loses the shop on the roll of the dice to one of his barbers.

Soon after, along comes Mr Kay, fresh off the American Airlines flight from London, which had to stop twice on the way in Greenland and Newfoundland, because they did not have big jets to cross the Atlantic those days. Mr Kay does well in the shop that he becomes a partner, and later he buys the joint.

In this area at this time, citizens like Humphrey Bogart, George Raft and James Cagney, who were born hereabouts, are struggling to scratch living as hoofer and actors of the stage, and of course they all come in for a shave aid a short back and sides.

Raft goes on to become a famous movie star, then blows all his money and gets barred from Britain because of his friendship with some very disreputable members of the Mob. But at this time he is teaching dances to dance the



Above: Mr Kay gives a loyal customer a last cut; left: the tools of his trade; Right: New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani organised a grand send-off



Bogart: a good friend



Cagney: local boy



Above:  
Modest  
US  
President  
Harry S.  
Truman  
patiently  
waited his  
turn for a  
trim



Reynolds: easy guy



tango in a dance hall on 168th Street and Broadway, which makes him very popular. Years later, Mr Kay remembers, Malcolm X gets shot nearby.

"Bogart was a good friend," says Mr Kay, "and then Cagney. He was a little guy, skinny, then he became fatter. Humphrey was born round the corner from me, at 245 West 104th Street. His father was a physician, a doctor, his mother was an artist, a painter. After he became an actor and went to Hollywood, he would always stop in for a haircut when he was back here."

That big movie that made him, *Casablanca*, it was intended originally for George Raft, but he didn't like it, so Bogart took it and was made. He always laughed about that. He called me Kay, I called him Humphrey. He told his friends about my shop and they would come in for a cut as well."

Then one day Yul Brynner walks into Mr Kay's shop. He is not a star at this time, mainly because he still has hair. "Yul was married to a beautiful English actress, Virginia Gilmore," says Mr Kay. "They were living at 444 Central Park West, roughly three blocks away from me, and had one son, so she brought the kid, who was about two, in for a haircut."

That was in 1948 and that's how I got to know Yul. I knew him as a friend. Then one day he comes in and says he is going to make a film, *The King and I*, and he wants a different look. What will he look like shaved, he asks.

"Good," I say. He didn't have thick hair. The front was thin. He had enough to comb and look good, but he also had a perfectly shaped skull. I cut his hair very short, put a hot towel on his head to soften the hair, then lathered it and shaved it with a cutthroat

razor. He was delighted when he saw himself. He looked better with his head shaved." Of course, in this man's town, men take hair off, but many more want it put on. Burt Reynolds was one. "Burt did and doesn't have hair," says Mr Kay. "He came to me one time — he was playing a detective in a New York television show called *The Hawk* — and he says to me, 'I'm losing my hair, what do you suggest? How do you like this implant procedure?' I say, 'It's all right, but there's

can remember, including *The French Connection*; *The Godfather*; *Fort Apache*; *the Bronx* and *Die Hard*. He shaved Bruce Willis's hair for *Die Hard* but refuses to compare him with Yul Brynner.

Mr Kay has also had other

famous people and politicians, including Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy visit his shop for a quick trim. "Wonderful gentlemen," he says. "One day President Truman comes in and one of my customers says, 'Mr President, I'm next and I would be

Luciano, who is a very big cheese in gangster circles at this time. One morning Mr Kay's six barbers are called out on strike by their union, and Luciano happens by for a shave while the people are parading and picketing outside.

Luciano enters and says, "Kay, what are they doing to you? Do you want them here?" Mr Kay replies, "Their union told them what to do and they're doing it." But Lucky says, "I did not ask that. Do you want them here? Or shall

brothers in the Jewish Mafia, and they give Mr Kay an invitation he does not like, but he likes even less to refuse. "Let's go for a little walk," they say, and because he can find no excuse, Mr Kay walks with them. "Aren't you afraid of them?" says Mr Kay.

Into the brothers' supermarket they go, and after approving of their cookies and crackers, Mr Kay is taken into a back office. There Mr Kay sees lots of baskets containing fruit and vegetables: apples, bananas, potatoes. "I ask them, 'Aren't you afraid of rats?'" says Mr Kay.

"Not the sort you mean,"

says one of the brothers, "take a look." Mr Kay says, "I move

some of the potatoes and the basket is full of \$100 bills.

They are all full of money. I

work it out later, I have just

seen at least \$35 million."

**A**nother mobster Mr Kay only knows as Joe stops his car outside the barber's shop one day. At this time Joe has the longest Cadillac in the United States, and therefore the world, and he invites Mr Kay into the car. Well, this makes Mr Kay very nervous indeed because Joe has a bad reputation for dirty work.

And then Mr Kay makes a big mistake. The car is so long that it has a cocktail bar and a little sink in the back with taps for running water. "I say, 'Joe, your hands get dirty so often, we put them in cement boxes in the East River!'"

At this the manager faints, and Mr Kay pleads, "No! I don't want them in cement boxes. I know them. I know their children and their wives. I was the president of the union myself until a couple of months ago."

So the barbers live to cut another day, but a little later the strike ends and Mr Kay is never sure how much influence Luciano has on this situation.

Another day, Mr Kay is strolling down Broadway minding his own business when suddenly he gets a pat on the back. "Mr Kay, nice to see you," say these citizens he recognises. They are two

"One day Yul asks me for a different look. What will he look like shaved, he asks. Good, I say"



no guarantee that it's going to stay, and you could lose it, and if you lose it, then it leaves your skin pitted."

"If I lose it," he says, "I'll get a rug." Burt Reynolds looks a sort of abrupt person, but he's not. If you know how to talk to him you can take the shoes off his feet. He comes to my apartment many times. He calls me and says, "I need a haircut — can you do it now?" and I say, "Sure," and he comes right on over. He's a very easy guy. I like Burt very much."

Because so many stars were Mr Kay's friends, it was natural that he should enter the movie business himself. Mr Kay has been the hair stylist on more films than he

had ever been in cement boxes in the East River!"

At this the manager faints, and Mr Kay pleads, "No! I don't want them in cement boxes. I know them. I know their children and their wives. I was the president of the union myself until a couple of months ago."

So the barbers live to cut another day, but a little later the strike ends and Mr Kay is never sure how much influence Luciano has on this situation.

Another day, Mr Kay is strolling down Broadway minding his own business when suddenly he gets a pat on the back. "Mr Kay, nice to see you," say these citizens he recognises. They are two

READER OFFER THE TIMES  
**Così fan tutte:**  
2 tickets for  
the price of 1



Readers of *The Times* have an opportunity to see baritone Thomas Allen performing in Mozart's popular opera *Così fan tutte* at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, for half the normal cost. Buy one ticket for selected seats at any price from £33 and you receive another ticket of equivalent value FREE.

Thomas Allen sings Don Alfonso in Jonathan Miller's acclaimed modern production of Mozart's bittersweet comedy of love, sex and betrayal.

The offer is for performances between March 19-25, commencing at 7pm. Thomas Allen sings Don Alfonso on March 19, 21 and 24, Natale de Carolis on 20, 23 and 25. Colin Davis conducts all performances except March 25 when the conductor is David Syrus.

To book, call The Royal Opera box office, 0171-304 4000 and quote *The Times* Reader Offer. This offer is strictly subject to availability.

The Royal Opera

CHANGING TIMES

## SHOPAROUND

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 680 6860  
FAX: 0171 431 9313**ANTIQUE DESKS**

Large Stocks of old desks, Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victoria, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dickens and Pedestal Desks.

Free delivery within mainland UK.

DON SPENCER ANTIQUES  
WARWICK  
(01926) 497957 - (01926) 497969  
Mobile 01363 525755  
[www.antique-desks.co.uk](http://www.antique-desks.co.uk)

OLD DESKS PURCHASED  
364, Market Place, Warwick (Bennetti Vintage Antique Centre)  
[www.antique-desks.co.uk](http://www.antique-desks.co.uk)

## Hand tailored Plus Twos and Trousers for Gentlemen

From £39.95

Cotton from selected, tested, soft, flannel, broad and soft checks.

\* Made to measure, service available.

\* Ideal for golf and country wear.

\* Overseas orders welcome.

Call  
0113 248 8160  
for your FREE  
brochure.

STAMFORD CLOTHIERS  
Dept TT, 30 York Road, Leeds LS8 8EE

## The Sheila Maid

CHEER AND MAIDEN, THE CLOSER ALICE!  
Everything you need to recall  
of those long ago days.  
49 hr Delivery  
Home Delivery Worldwide.

Our unique range includes:  
• THE SHEILA MAID DRESSING GOWN

• THE TRADITIONAL CURVED SHIRT

• THE SHEILA MAID DRESSING GOWN

# Make waves on the radio

MARCH 13-15

Abselling, climbing, white-water rafting and canoeing, bridge and gourmet cooking. At various locations along the Welsh border with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, full-board; from £50 (activities weekend) to £175 (bridge in Ludlow).

Better swimming. A course for those who can swim up to 20 metres, are confident in the water, but want to improve. Lectures and pool sessions at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). From £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Winter skills and mountain navigation. Short, intensive course for hillwalkers, teaching winter skills. At the Snowdonia Mountain Centre, Corris, Fort William, Scotland (01972 72467). Price from £70-£90 for two days.

Scottish country dancing. At Belstead House, Ipswich, Suffolk (01473 886221). From £75.

Walk the Ridgeway Path: French conversation; History of Opera; the French Baroque; Landscape and garden history. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (0994 890295). From £159 residential; £69.20 non-residential.

Sing jazz! A social history of Britain's railways, 1823-1974;

Making dolls' house dolls. All at the Old Rectory, Littleworth, West Sussex (01798 565306). From £114 residential.

Blacksmithing. Craft hand-tools. Short stories; Glass engraving; Life drawing. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811031). Price £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

The birds in your garden; Bridge for improvers; Ships, sand and sea; Italian opera.

A varied selection this weekend at Knuton Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Price from £89 per person, inclusive.

Classic car weekends. At the Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcester (01386 852255).

Chauffeur-driven excursions through the Cotswolds in classic cars; visiting museums and gardens. From £780 for two nights' half-board based on two people sharing.

Mahler Symphonies Nos 1-4; Human origins; The artist's vision; The outer and inner eye. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

Competitive chess; International folk dances from France, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Israel; Mounting

and framing pictures. A selection of the activities available this weekend at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Look out for mammals. Badgers, otters, dormice and other small mammals are the subject of this course run by the Mammal Society at the Orielton Field Centre, Penbridge (01646 661225). From £50.

Competitive chess; International folk dances from France, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Israel; Mounting

seamen and smugglers, the trade of the West Country ports, 1600-1850; Music in Vienna, 1890-1945; Giant dragons and pygmies; West Country legends and folklore; A Greek experience. A selection of the weekend or one-day courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). Residential prices from £110. Daily rates from £24.

Laugh and be well; Dr Johnson got it wrong; Quilting; Silk-screen printing. All this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). Prices from £89-£98 inclusive.

The cottage garden; Slavery,



Germany and Italy. At the University of Oxford, Rewley House (01865 270308). Price £30.50 with lunch.

Dowsing for beginners. With the British Society of Dowsers (01233 7302530). At the Hawkwood College, Stroud, Gloucester. Price £146 residential, £70 non-residential.

Book-keeping; Introduction to the Internet; Calligraphy for beginners; Painting — a beguiling medium. At the Old Rectory, Fitteworth, Pulborough, West Sussex (01798 565306). From £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Touch wood, the survival story of old superstitions; The history of parks and gardens; Dowsing; A voice workshop. At Knuton Hall, Irchester (01933 312104). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

Health and fitness. At the Priory Hotel, Weston Road, Bath (0125 331922), close to the centre of Roman and Georgian Bath, with spa, steam room, fully equipped gym, indoor pool. Price £220 for the weekend, including dinner, B&B, use of facilities.

Fresh air and fine houses. A local history weekend in Essex and Suffolk, with Peter Lawrence, at the Field Study Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Price £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

Garden appreciation; Medieval art and architecture; Spring into art; Lace. At the Hill Residential College, Abergavenny, Wales (01495 333777). Price £88-£98 inclusive.

The birds in your garden; Bridge for improvers; Ships, sand and sea; Italian opera.

A varied selection this weekend at Knuton Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Price from £89 per person, inclusive.

Classic car weekends. At the Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcester (01386 852255).

Chauffeur-driven excursions through the Cotswolds in classic cars; visiting museums and gardens. From £780 for two nights' half-board based on two people sharing.

Mahler Symphonies Nos 1-4; Human origins; The artist's vision; The outer and inner eye. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

Competitive chess; International folk dances from France, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Israel; Mounting

and framing pictures. A selection of the activities available this weekend at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Look out for mammals. Badgers, otters, dormice and other small mammals are the subject of this course run by the Mammal Society at the Orielton Field Centre, Penbridge (01646 661225). From £50.

Competitive chess; International folk dances from France, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Israel; Mounting

seamen and smugglers, the trade of the West Country ports, 1600-1850; Music in Vienna, 1890-1945; Giant dragons and pygmies; West Country legends and folklore; A Greek experience. A selection of the weekend or one-day courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). Residential prices from £110. Daily rates from £24.

Laugh and be well; Dr Johnson got it wrong; Quilting; Silk-screen printing. All this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). Prices from £89-£98 inclusive.



Comedy on the airwaves: make a goon of yourself by learning to write scripts for radio at the University of Cambridge on March 27-29

**TO ADVERTISE CALL:**  
0171 6383833  
or visit our website at [www.times.com](http://www.times.com)

**SHOPAROUND**

FAX:  
0171 481 9313

NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN  
TO ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS



## COMFORT AIR CUSHION Helps RELIEVE ACHING BACKS

U.S. Competitors' Similar

**15**

**£7.99**

Regular Model + P.P.  
Specially Designed for BACK PAIN sufferers

Fits Any Seat in Your Home & Car

Lightweight and super sturdy. TRY AT HOME FOR 28 DAYS. If you do not support your lower back. Soft, elegant "velour". Comes with a FULL 12 MONTH GUARANTEE (& these do not affect your statutory rights)

ACADIA

(01283 128)

NEWCASTLE UPON

TYNE NE25 2BS

Telephone

ordering

Service

ACCESS/VISA

CARD

HOLDERS

PLEASE DIAL

**0990**

**645**

**645**

QUOTING

ARCADIA

DEPT 838-128

TO PLACE

YOUR ORDERS

24 HOURS A DAY ALSO AT WEEKENDS

POST CODE

Description Item No. Price Total (please tick box)

REGULAR CUSHION 38500 1 REGULAR £7.99

DELUXE CUSHION BIGGER WIDER -BEST VALUE! 38501 1 DELUXE £7.99

SAVE £2.00 (SAVE £2.98) MORE 3 DELUXE £24 (SAVE £5.97)

PRICE TOTAL £

Please add £2.95 post, packing & handling per cushion\* £

Make cheques payable to ARCADIA or charge my ACCESS/VISA CARD NO:

GRAND TOTAL £

Expiry date Signature

Offer applies for U.K., Mainland and N.I. Only. Please tick here if you would like to receive our newsletter. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Terms and conditions apply. © 1997 Coopers of Stortford Ltd. VISA and ACCESS are registered trademarks of Visa U.S.A. Inc. and American Express Co. respectively. ARCADIA is a registered trademark of Coopers of Stortford Ltd. All rights reserved. Coopers of Stortford Ltd. is not affiliated with VISA or ACCESS.

Traditional style, value and great ideas...

## THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MINI ZOOM BINOCULARS

NOW WITH 14-50X MAGNIFICATION  
for a very special £129.95  
(RRP £189.95)

BRAND NEW!

These new Explorer 14-50 x 27 Super Mini Zoom Binoculars from Sunoptar are a major breakthrough in optical technology. Computer designed, they are capable of a staggering 14-50 times magnification power normally found in binoculars five times their size and weight. They feature 27 mm objective lenses, and an easy to operate variable zoom lever enabling you to home in on any point from 14 to an amazing 50 times magnification. At approximately 10 cm x 11 cm (4 inches x 4 1/2 inches) and weighing only 322 grammes (11 ozs), you can take them with you anywhere. They are superb for sporting events, wildlife spotting or sightseeing etc. Wherever you are, these unbelievably powerful binoculars will bring even the most distant objects extremely close. And, because the binoculars are capable of such incredible high magnification, they even come complete with a tripod adapter enabling quick attachment to any standard tripod if desired. The binoculars are strong and durable and come complete with case, wrist strap, polishing cloth and a 10 year guarantee. Not available in the shops, this brand new model is available direct from us at a special price of just £129.95 including postage and packing, saving a massive £60.00 off the recommended retail price of £189.95. At this special price, everyone should tuck away a pair!

### Order by Post

Fill in the coupon quoting your MasterCard/Visa account number or send together with cheque (address on back please) or crossed Postal Order NOT CASH, to:

Coopers of Stortford (Ref. 9045), Admail100,  
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2FD.

### Or Telephone

Call 01279 438159 for MasterCard/Visa Credit Card orders, 24 hour, 7 day service. Please quote reference 9045 when ordering. For enquiries telephone 01279 635348 Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. We deliver to address in the UK (including Northern Ireland). If you are not satisfied with your purchase return the goods to us, unused and in the original packaging, within 28 days for a refund or exchange.

**Coopers**  
OF STORTFORD

### MINI ZOOM BINOCULARS ORDER FORM

Please send me Quantity Price Total

14-50x Mini Zoom Binoculars £129.95

(Please indicate quantity and total)

Mr/Mrs/Miss Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a crossed cheque/Postal Order made payable to

Coopers of Stortford for £ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

please debit my Mastercard/Visa (delete as appropriate) with the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Your year of birth 19 \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer not to receive information, offers or services from other companies carefully selected by Coopers of Stortford, please tick here □ Ref. 9045

Coopers of Stortford is a trading name of The Enterprise Department Limited, Head Office, 22 Cassowary, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2EL Reg. No. 3917601

# Confessions of a monk

A film based on Ampleforth shows the struggle of vocation versus temptation

**C**ardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will be intrigued by an invitation in early summer to a film premiere in the West End. Whether he will attend is open to question but, given time and the chance of a private viewing, he would almost certainly draw the curtains and settle down with some popcorn.

The film is low budget, British and destined for general release. It is also the talk of Ampleforth, the private Catholic school in Yorkshire where Cardinal Hume was a housemaster in the 1950s before becoming Abbot in 1963.

*Monk Dawson* is loosely based on the novel by the Catholic author Piers Paul Read, who wrote it after an education at Ampleforth, during the time when Cardinal Hume was a housemaster there. Much of it consists of an unflattering portrayal of life in a fictional Catholic boarding school called Kirkham in Yorkshire, showing the beatings, bullying and early homosexual passion which influenced the character of the fictional pupil.

The pupil, Dawson (played by John Michie), eventually becomes a monk and then a priest in Chelsea, west London. Things start to go wrong after he is seduced by a glamorous Sloane Ranger, Jenny Stanton, who is played by Paula Hamilton, the former model from the Volkswagen advertisements.

Soon afterwards she leaves Dawson for his best friend. He has fallen in love and his tragedy unfolds as his life and ministry collapse amid the vulgar surroundings of the Chelsea fast-set. Eventually,



Lead me not into temptation: Dawson (John Michie) is seduced by Sloane Ranger Jenny Stanton (Paula Hamilton) in a scene from *Monk Dawson*

Dawson becomes a Trappist monk and the film closes with a picture of the illegitimate son he does not know exists.

Father Justin Price, who promotes vocations at Ampleforth, denies that Read's book was ever banned at the school, although he concedes that the boys were not actively encouraged to read it.

The monastery is thriving, says Father Justin, with a regular intake into the novitiate. "The book is not a portrayal of Ampleforth, it is a morality tale. Celibacy is hard for any man, although the film is more than that, it is a moral tale drawn from real experience."

"I don't think the film puts Ampleforth in a bad light. It is a morality tale. Celibacy is hard for any man, although the film is more than that, it is a moral tale drawn from real experience."

"It shows that the Catholic church and its rules are difficult. Some men stray. Monk Dawson tries to lash out at the church for being so conservative and unforgiving. These

kinds of thoughts must go through the minds of many priests."

Father Justin Price, who promotes vocations at Ampleforth, denies that Read's book was ever banned at the school, although he concedes that the boys were not actively encouraged to read it.

The monastery is thriving, says Father Justin, with a regular intake into the novitiate. "The book is not a portrayal of Ampleforth, it is a morality tale. Celibacy is hard for any man, although the film is more than that, it is a moral tale drawn from real experience."

"I don't think the film puts Ampleforth in a bad light. It is a morality tale. Celibacy is hard for any man, although the film is more than that, it is a moral tale drawn from real experience."

"It shows that the Catholic church and its rules are difficult. Some men stray. Monk Dawson tries to lash out at the church for being so conservative and unforgiving. These

Read, whose latest novel, *Knights of the Cross*, about sex and Catholicism, was published in paperback last Monday, is a committed Catholic.

He is a lay reader at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington, West London, a governor of More House school, he is on the board of the charity Aid to

the importance of religion in education.

"The issues *Monk Dawson* explores are still very much alive. They concern the value of prayer, whether it makes a difference. I am in favour of the contemplative life. God can do more than we can. Catholic belief is that we can pray to God directly to influence events," he says.

"The contemplative monk or nun prays on behalf of the wider community, not just for themselves."

"I hope the film will make people wonder about materialism, even when it is benevolent materialism like housing the homeless."

Hamilton, also a practising Catholic, is delighted by the film and its message. "I believe religious education is incredibly important as a community-based activity," she says.

"It should be delivered with a light hand and a fair heart."

RUTH GLEDHILL



Conflict in the classroom: "The film is a morality tale"

lished in paperback last Monday, is a committed Catholic.

He is a lay reader at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington, West London, a governor of More House school, he is on the board of the charity Aid to

garden is ruined. The name of the garden changes from Eden to Gethsemane. I suspect that the Dome planners have little intention of offering us a Gethsemane experience again. After all, the sponsors might not like it.

It is because I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, that I hope we get something more than we are being offered at present.

Will not this Spirit, who abhors the church to bring good news to the poor, call us to make signs of justice? Can this Spirit who helps us see visions and dream dreams give us an inspirational urban vision of New Jerusalem rather than a designer pastiche of Eden?

A garden is no substitute for a cross and "Spirit" is no substitute for the Holy Spirit. Of course, let different voices and faith traditions be heard and experienced within the Zone, but let us not forget that a "spirit level" is concerned with truth.

• Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church, East London.

Whatever we want to make of the Millennium Dome, wounded as it is by its inflated budget and its muddled presentation, the controversies around it are dramatising some the big issues our society faces as we try to mark time on a grand scale.

Take the "zone" (now there's a word from the material realm) called Spirit Level, which is aiming to explore the spiritual, emotional and moral dimensions of human life. What experiences should we expect it to dramatise and reflect for us, if we pay our £15 for the privilege?

The problem starts with the "S" word itself, chosen no doubt precisely because of its ambiguity. The planners seem to be searching for an elusive common currency or universal vocabulary that will include all and offend none.

When the word "spirit" is cut loose from a particular tradition, it gives up a liveliness and passion and turns it into a kind of linguistic Lyric, stretching to accommodate any

## Millennium Dome reflects our 'spiritual wasteland'



DOUG GAY

shape or form. It becomes the property of a New Age-style Gnosticism, posing as the Holistic Option".

It appears that Dome theology is going to follow the lead given by those such as John Hick and Matthew Fox into a humanistic cult-de-sac where all we ever do is talk among ourselves about that which we cannot really talk about, f

fear the language of faith will become a kind of spiritual Esperanto which, by trying too hard to belong to everyone, ends up belonging to no one. This is one of the classic mistakes of modern liberal theology: it does not express the view of most

Christians in Britain, and it is unlikely to be welcomed by Jews or Muslims.

On an architectural level, the Dome is promising us a garden which "draws inspiration from the sheltered calm of a Christian monastic cloister, the austerity of Japanese

Zen gardens and the formal exuberance of Muslim gardens".

Here is the seduction of a press release which promises us that we have all been recognised, that something has been borrowed from us all to be combined in a greater whole. Apart from sounding horribly like Songs of Praise, if it is read from a Judeo-Christian tradition, the choice of a garden appears to hold out the promise of an innocent and neutral religious space.

True, the Christian Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. In between, innocence is lost and the

garden is ruined. The name of the garden changes from Eden to Gethsemane. I suspect that the Dome planners have little intention of offering us a Gethsemane experience again. After all, the sponsors might not like it.

It is because I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, that I hope we get something more than we are being offered at present.

Will not this Spirit, who abhors the church to bring good news to the poor, call us to make signs of justice? Can this Spirit who helps us see visions and dream dreams give us an inspirational urban vision of New Jerusalem rather than a designer pastiche of Eden?

A garden is no substitute for a cross and "Spirit" is no substitute for the Holy Spirit. Of course, let different voices and faith traditions be heard and experienced within the Zone, but let us not forget that a "spirit level" is concerned with truth.

• Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church, East London.

## SHOPAROUND

### MEN DOES YOUR SIZE & POTENCY MATTER?

Our FREE mens catalogues display S & M sizes. We offer you our honest advice on how to order your size. Send a self addressed envelope to: Men's Size & Potency, Dept. A, 1000 E. 10th St., Suite 1000, New York, NY 10003.

Send 2 x 1st class stamps to: Dash Publishing (Dept. A), 1000 E. 10th St., Suite 1000, New York, NY 10003.

This old PENNY RED AND approx 500 STAMPS FREE

We will send you the famous PENNY RED AND approx 500 STAMPS FREE

Send 2 x 1st class stamps to: Dash Publishing (Dept. A), 1000 E. 10th St., Suite 1000, New York, NY 10003.

Pure Silk Ties. The Finest Gift.

100% PURE SILK HANDMADE 200 designs. All at \$9.95. All in the Thread of SILK FREE colour brochure. Super quality. Also available silk shirts, waistcoats, underwear and nightwear.

For your copy please call 0171 276 3387 (24 hrs) or write to: Muchen Silk, Dept. TIAZ, FREEPOST, PO Box 3432, London SE8 8RR.

Address: 4 Chancery Lane, 7th Floor, London WC2B 4JL.

Shape or form. It becomes the property of a New Age-style Gnosticism, posing as the Holistic Option".

It appears that Dome theology is going to follow the lead given by those such as John Hick and Matthew Fox into a humanistic cult-de-sac where all we ever do is talk among ourselves about that which we cannot really talk about, f

fear the language of faith will become a kind of spiritual Esperanto which, by trying too hard to belong to everyone, ends up belonging to no one. This is one of the classic mistakes of modern liberal theology: it does not express the view of most

Christians in Britain, and it is unlikely to be welcomed by Jews or Muslims.

On an architectural level, the

Dome is promising us a garden which "draws inspiration from the sheltered calm of a Christian monastic cloister, the austerity of Japanese

Zen gardens and the formal exuberance of Muslim gardens".

Here is the seduction of a press release which promises us that we have all been recognised, that something has been borrowed from us all to be combined in a greater whole. Apart from sounding horribly like Songs of Praise, if it is read from a Judeo-Christian tradition, the choice of a garden appears to hold out the promise of an innocent and neutral religious space.

True, the Christian Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. In between, innocence is lost and the

## Church services for tomorrow

Second Sunday of Lent

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Choral Evensong. 11 Ch: 9.45 & 11 Ch: 10.30 E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 9.30 E. Mass. Jackson in G: 11.15 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 L: 11 Ch: 10.30 E. Mass. Boyling: 3 Ch: E. The Dean of Liverpool: 4 HC: 12.30 M.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 9 Euch: 10.30 Euch. Civitas sancti ihi (Byrd): 12.30 M.

BLACKFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Ch: M. Canon Hindley: 10.30 Euch. Ireland in C: Ave verum (Mozart); 4 Ch: E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8: 11 Euch. Canon G Thomas: 11.30 E. Blart & Brewster: 12.30 M.

BRIGHTON CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M: 3 HC: 10 Ch: E. Sunglass in F: 11.30 M. Missa sancti Petri (Cass): 12.30 M.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M. Short Service (Gibbons): 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S. Euch. Mass. Tallis' Testament (Howells): 3 E. Blow in F.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 L: 11 Ch: 10.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10.30 M. Canon J. Parry: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 8 HC: 9.45 Ch: M. Canon R. Capener: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M. Canon O'Donovan: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10.30 Euch. 3 German Lutherans: 5 Ch: E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Missa sancti Christi nouissima (Palestrina): Canon J. Newman: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: very Rev D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G: Rev Dr D. Watson: 11.30 M. Sunglass in F: 12.30 M.

</div



Meeting  
the king  
of paradise  
on Tonga

South Pacific - 26, 27

# THE TIMES TRAVEL

Don't let  
the sun  
go down  
without you

Eclipses - 33



## A powerhouse in the making

Nigel Tisdall returns to Shanghai, one of the East's most beautiful cities, to find a Chinese Gotham City growing around its historic heart

I am shopping in the No 1 Department Store in Nanjing Lu, the John Lewis of Shanghai. "You like?" asks a smiling assistant as she holds up two shirts. One is green and tartan and the slogan reads "Gentleman-dog". The other is blue and orange and says "Child of Cavalry".

I politely decline, but later feel a rush of regret. Maybe I should buy such garments, not to wear, but as a record of the great changes now sweeping through China. In Shanghai, its largest and most go-ahead city, they are wising up so fast that such clothes, with their hilariously wrong Western slogans, will soon be a thing of the past.

In the time it will take for the Millennium Dome to be built, visited and converted into a white-elephant shopping centre this gargantuan port, once dubbed the "Whore of Asia", will have been transformed into a shimmering metropolis.

Back in 1985, when I first visited the No 1 Department Store, it was a monument to state-sponsored lethargy. Seven floors of mind-blowing inertia — yawning staff, shelves like a salvage clearance sale, prize goods hidden away in glass cases that no one had the key for...

Now the store is awash with colourful products: shiny, pink bedspreads, repro' grandfather clocks, screaming karaoke machines. Computers sit next to ink brushes, calculators lie beside abacuses, exercise bikes compete with mah-jong sets.

During the past six years, the Pass of the East has become a concrete forest of cranes, building sites and

### HEADING EAST: HOW TO SEE SHANGHAI

■ Getting there: Nigel Tisdall flew to Shanghai with British Airways (0171-434 7300). Flights to Vienna leave from London Heathrow twice a week in April. Keytravel (0171-387 4939) offers discounted fares.

■ Regent Holidays (0171-921 1711) arranges tailor-made holidays to China.

Prices for an eight-night package to Shanghai in April start at £1,080 including flights, transfers and seven nights B&B at the Peace Hotel (0086 21 6321 6888). A cheaper option is the three-star Majapala Hotel (0086 21 6502 6888; double room £40 a night). Prices based on two sharing.

■ Sightingseeing: Taxis are cheap and plentiful — ask your hotel concierge to write the address down in Chinese first. Pick a clear day to visit the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and expect to queue. A visit to both viewing bubbles costs 100 yuan (about £7.25).

The Touring the Huangpu River Cruise also costs 100 yuan in "A" class. Boats depart from the Bund at 10.30am.



China girl: never seen without a mobile phone

Board at a terminal opposite Jingling Lu — take the afternoon sailing.

■ Restaurants and bars: The Phoenix Dragon restaurant at the top of the Peace Hotel serves good Chinese food.

For a more unusual venue try Spin, the revolving restaurant in the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, and Luck City, which sits in a former Russian Orthodox church in the French Concession (6 Gaolan Lu).

Shanghai has a growing number of expat bars and clubs — for a listing see the web site <http://www.shanghai-ed.com>.

■ Red tape: Visas are required by British passport holders visiting China. A simple-entry tourist visa costs £25 plus £10 postage and handling — they are best obtained with the help of a tour operator. Further information from the Chinese Embassy (0191 8808009).

■ Reading: Shanghai (Odyssey, £10.99); Rough Guide to China (£15.99); The Western Food Lover's Guide to Shanghai (Odyssey, £9.99).



FOR THE  
21ST CENTURY

in the 1920s, Shanghai's colonial rulers erected their pompous banks, clubs and diplomatic missions.

Now, across the silt water, another herd of flagship buildings is massing. Known as Pudong, Shanghai's east bank has become a burgeoning powerhouse of skyscrapers and financial headquarters.

Visitors can look forward to a neck-cracking array of superlatives. The world's longest suspension bridge is in place, work is under way on the world's tallest building and biggest hotel, and the largest department store in Asia. Then there is the new stock exchange, a subway line and an international airport...

Shanghai is seized with futuristic ambition and the great symbol of its hopes is the landmark Oriental Pearl TV Tower. It rises 1,555ft above the Huangpu, a modernist kebab sporting two pink viewing bubbles, a revolving restaurant, a karaoke bar and a

bizarre 19-room Space Hotel that is set to become one of the world's hippest places in which to stay.

Waiting with the effervescent crowd that gather at its tripod-like feet, I felt I had stumbled on one of history's magic moments. There must have been a similar buzz in the air when they built the Eiffel Tower, or the Golden Gate Bridge. The 360-degree views from the tower are stupendous, but even more intoxicating is the excited chatter of the Chinese sightseers, who devour the experience with a mixture of glee and awe.

**S**hanghai is fortunate in having the land on which to build a second city next to its historic heart. If all goes to plan, Pudong will become a Gotham City where life is conducted by worker ants in air-conditioned cocoons.

The old city has not been spared the frenzy for change and many of its colonial villas, churches and public buildings are threatened by development.

Fifty years of revolutionary fervour has been an excellent way to mothball Shanghai's imperialist architecture, but now the jackhammers are out in force. Even the Shanghai Club, once a bastion of the British aristocracy, is home to a branch of KFC.

It is easy to get nostalgic in Shanghai and to nurse fears about what the city is losing. I would never stay in the glitzy skyscrapers of the Portman Shangri-la Hotel, an expat palace that could be anywhere in luxury Asia, while there is still room at the art-deco Peace Hotel, built in 1929 and where Noel Coward completed *Private Lives*.

On the other hand, the new Shanghai Museum in Renmin Square is a delight. Built on four floors linked by escalators, it feels as serene and beautiful as an upmarket department store, and it is a joy to wander its marble halls.

At times, the pace of change in Shanghai seems unacceptably brutal, as when I found myself in a taxi driven by a young hot-head who went so fast that we knocked down a cyclist. At other times it is simply comic, such as the vogue for ostentatiously flaunting mobile phones, or the disco-style dancers at the Great World Entertainment Centre, who do their best to look sexy wearing two bras and passion-killing knickers.

There are mellow moments, too, such as taking a seat in a wicker chair on the three-hour Touring the Huangpu River Cruise that chugs up to the mouth of the Yangtze. Tickets for this come in three classes: A-class gets you into a top-deck saloon with sky-blue armchairs, endless tea, rice cakes and a luminous-green toy car that turns into a torch.

Loudspeakers play *The Blue Danube*, and you sit in the sun watching mammoth tankers racing alongside barges strung together like sausages. On the return leg a magician performs, and when we sailed towards the Bund I sensed how exciting Shanghai must have been in the days when every traveller arrived by sea.

Before my visit I had promised to make two pilgrimages. One was to a basement boozey near the Russian Consulate that had been a favourite watering hole in 1985. Sailors



The Oriental Pearl TV Tower. "There must have been a similar buzz in the air when they built the Eiffel Tower"



## Sail away in May on Oriana's Newcomers Cruise.

We're rolling out the red carpet on the 10th of May for passengers who are new to P&O cruising.

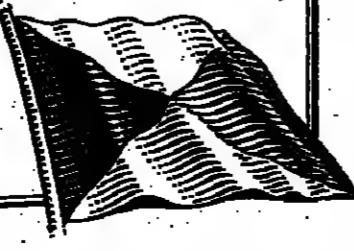
Oriana's crew will pamper you with champagne in your cabin on arrival, £95 credit to spend on board and an invitation to an exclusive Newcomers cocktail party.

And to make sure everything goes smoothly there'll be a special P&O escort on hand should you need advice. **P&O Cruises**

Ports of call include Barcelona, St. Tropez, Gibralter and Livorno, from where you can visit Florence or Pisa.

Prices for a 12-night Mediterranean cruise from Southampton start at just £1,295.

Contact your ABTA travel agent or call 0990 726 726, quoting AG29, and we'll get the carpet ready.



## Golden China

A classic tour of the Middle Kingdom with the number one expert and specialists



16 days in Beijing, Chengde, Xian, Suzhou, Shanghai, Guilin and Hong Kong from £1650

At CTS Horizons we are not only China's foremost tour operator, we are part of the landscape. To us, China is home and we take pride in being able to show you parts of it unseen by other tour groups. In Beijing after the grandeur of the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven we take our guests on a rickshaw tour of the hutongs or back streets for a more intimate view of domestic life. There is a unique visit to the charming Gongwang Palace where we take tea in its superb opera house.

At the Great Wall we opt for a picnic at Jinshanling, miles from the crowds and the vendors. In Guilin, we head for the Yiaoshan Mountain for the most magnificent views over the undulating hills around Guilin. All these are in addition to the usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - Xian's Terracotta Army, the waterfront of Shanghai, the gardens and canals of Suzhou and the magical cruise through the spectacular Li River of Guilin. At CTS Horizons, China is more than just another destination.

1998 departures, prices and single supp:  
Mar 19 ..... £1650 £225  
Mar 26 ..... 1695 225  
Apr 9, 16, 23, 30 ..... 1695 270  
May 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... 1695 270  
Jun 11, Jul 9, 16 ..... 1695 250  
Aug 6, 20, 27 ..... 1750 265  
Sept 3, 10, 17, 24 ..... 1750 285  
Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 ..... 1750 295

For tours of China, talk to the experts, we're at home in the Orient. Book direct: 0171-836 9911

CCT Horizons Services (UK) Ltd  
CTS House, Upper Ground, London WC2H 9QH  
Fax: 0171 635 3121 Email: [CTS@elkton.co.uk](mailto:CTS@elkton.co.uk)

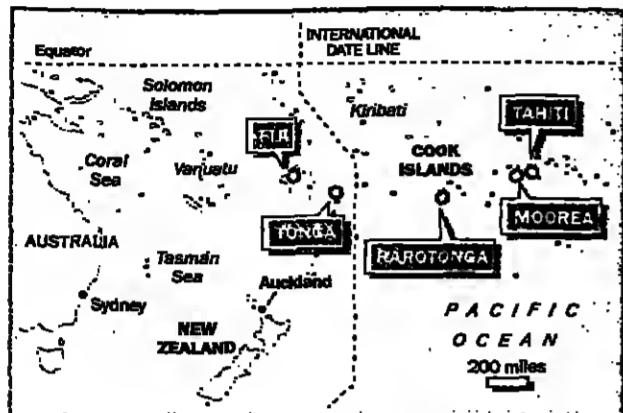
**CTS Horizons**  
the connoisseur traveller's choice



## ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: TONGA

# Time to buy a place in the sun

Nicole Swengley found such a warm welcome on Tonga, she was almost tempted to buy the hotel



**L**ooking for your own personal chunk of Utopia? Fancy moving to the South Seas? Then you'll be interested to hear that Tonga's Paradise Hotel is up for sale.

Kentucky-born owner, Carter Johnson, is tired of running a hotel, even in paradise. "Oh, Vava'u is terrific," he drawls. "No TV, no newspapers, no drugs, no guns. Gee, I saw a dog run over last week and told the police to put it out of its misery but they didn't get no bullets in their guns."

Carter Johnson considers his stint in paradise just another life chapter, following work on US gas lines and sheep farming in Australia. Now he hopes to head back to the States — if he can sell the hotel.

"There's too much sun here," grumbles his vanilla-skinned wife. "You can never get away from it."

The Paradise Hotel perches picturesquely above Port of Refuge harbour on Vava'u, the largest of 40-odd stunningly beautiful islands — some inhabited, some deserted — which make up the northern part of Tonga's archipelago.

Secluded anchorages and enticing inter-island waterways make the Vava'u group one of the world's prime yachting destinations while the islands themselves remain well off the beaten track of the South Pacific's mass tourism routes.

"I used to fly guests personally by plane from Fiji. Then I crashed it. You can see the pieces in the bar," Carter Johnson gives a deep-throated Southern chortle. "Now the place is full of yachts."

The inference is clear. Boat-builders aren't interested in paying for hotel rooms. But that's to the advantage of landlubbers who prefer their paradise with hot showers and privacy.

Carter Johnson took me to supper at Ocean Breeze, a delightful restaurant run by ex-Londoner John Dale and his Tongan wife, Amelia. Over a delicious meal of fish, John said (without a hint of irony): "Tonga's got a lot more to offer than Wimbledon — white sand beaches, good food, a tropical climate."

Come the millennium, John thinks Tonga will be as popular as Tahiti. Certainly, the country is likely to attract a rash of visitors in December 1999 when it claims (as do several other islands) that it will be the first place to greet the new year thanks to its proximity to the International Date Line.

**B**ut mass tourism? That seems unlikely. For the land where time begins is also one of the most laid-back countries in the world. Tongan torpor is all-pervading. Phones don't work, buses rarely run on time, guides "forget" to meet you because of an all-important rugger practice and shopkeepers' favourite expression is "come back tomorrow".

Perhaps this relaxed attitude owes something to the fact that Tonga is the only South Pacific country never to have been colonised. This independence has kept the culture intact and meant that *faka tonga* (the Tongan way of life) remains pretty much unchanged. Life goes on as it always has done — slowly.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV

"Old traditions and new ways don't necessarily clash," explained the King of Tonga when I was fortunate enough to be granted an audience at his white-painted, wooden, seafront palace. "Isolation is impractical. Island people are no different to anyone else — they just live on islands."

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV

has lost 13 stone since he weighed in as the world's heaviest monarch at 33 stone, according to the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1976. Even so he remains huge, and has the stature of a god to his 105,000 subjects.

When I was requested to crouch down during his arrival at a brass band concert

(everyone sits lower than the king to show respect), I was reminded of the time his mother, Queen Salote, attended Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. It poured with rain that day. But Tongan customs forbade emulation of those you honour. So when Queen Elizabeth's carriage was covered by a hood, Queen Salote sat — magnificently drenched — in a carriage awash with water.

The busiest time to visit Vava'u is during celebrations for the crown prince's birthday on May 4. Another week of partying takes place on Tongatapu, the kingdom's main island, around the king's birthday on July 4.

**A** Helila Festival, as the king's birthday bash is known, is a week-long gala of sports and music competitions, feasts, military parades, a street procession of crazily decorated floats and even an annual beauty contest.

To gain an insight into traditional culture, head for the Tongan National Centre, where you can see wood-carving and 'umu (underground oven) preparation.

At night you can attend a Tongan feast at the centre, preceded by a traditional kava-drinking ceremony. Kava is the non-alcoholic national drink made from the ground root of the pepper plant. It acts as a mild tranquiliser, numbing lips and tongue, and if you like drink-

ing dishwater you'll love it. While you feast on traditional dishes like roast sucking pig, chicken, *ofo ika* (raw fish with chillies), octopus, sweet potato, yams, taro in coconut cream and *fakalaki* (breadfruit pudding), entertainment is provided by ukulele-plucking Tongans and energetic warrior-like dancers.

The evening winds to a close with the tau'olunga, a graceful solo female dance in which the oiled skin of the performer is plastered with tank notes by appreciative admirers.

**A** whole-island tour of Tongatapu costs £12 including visits to Captain Cook's reputed landing-place, the sacred flying foxes (large fruit bats) hanging in the casuarina trees at Kolovai, Tonga bird park, Ha'amonga 'a Maui Trilithon (a Stonehenge-like structure with solstice markings) and the impressive Mauga's 'a Vaca blowholes where the sea spouts 30m-high plumes through lava gaps.

But you may prefer to chill out on a typical South Seas beach (the best are at Kelepi and Ha'atafu) or visit an offshore island like Fa'a'e, a half-hour boat trip from Nukula'ofa, where you can overnight in *fale* (traditional thatched houses) hidden among coconut palms.

Royal Sunset Island Resort on 'Atata island is run by

Irish passport holders with proof of onward travel are admitted for 30 days without a visa. No vaccinations are required for entry but it is wise to consult your GP. Further information and leaflets from Tonga High Commission (0171-724 5528; fax 0171-723 9074). ■ Further reading: *Tonga Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £6.99); *Adventuring in the Pacific* (Sierra Club, £10.99); *Cruising Guide to the Vava'u Island Group in the Kingdom of Tonga* (Cruising Guide Publications, £15).

affable Kiwis, David and Terri Hunt. Their beachside fales have private verandas, shower rooms and snack-making facilities, while main meals are taken in an open-sided fale beside the lagoon. Sailing, scuba-diving, sport-fishing and seaplane safaris to atolls and volcano crater lakes are all options here, along with visits to 'Atata's traditional village, where the resort's staff live.

Envy them their lifestyle as they stroll to work along the soft white, coral sand beach beside a lagoon ten shades of blue. It's as close to paradise as you'll get this side of heaven. Apart from the eponymous hotel, of course.

## Train Deluxe & Cruise to Marrakesh

visiting Paris, Lake Lucerne, Cote d'Azur, Menorca, Malaga for Granada, Cadiz for Jerez and Seville, Casablanca, and a few days at the 4-star Atlas Hotel including Eurostar, the Train de Grand Vitesse, the Nostalgic Orient Express & a cruise on board the Swiss-managed MS Switzerland

This wonderful journey makes use of three great trains, the Eurostar to Paris, the Train de Grand Vitesse to the Alps, and across the Alps to Maggiore by Nostalgic Orient Express. It's then onwards across the Mediterranean on board the Swiss-managed MS Switzerland calling at the Cote d'Azur, the island of Menorca, Malaga for the visit to Granada, Cadiz for the visit to Jerez and Seville, Casablanca where we disembark for a visit of the city and onwards towards the Atlas Mountains for a few days in Marrakesh and the return flight to London Gatwick.

**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

Day 1 Depart Waterloo by Eurostar to Paris. Spend two nights at the 5-star Nikko Hotel. Day 3 Depart by TGV to Bern and onwards to Lake Lucerne for two nights at the Drei Könige or similar. Day 5 Depart by the Nostalgic Orient Express to Lake Maggiore and onwards to the Cote d'Azur to join the MS Switzerland and for our 5-night cruise. Day 6 Reach Mahon - Menorca. Day 7 at sea. Day 8 Reach Malaga for Granada. Day 9 Reach Cadiz for Jerez and Seville. Day 10 Reach Casablanca - visit city and onwards to the 4-star Atlas in Marrakesh for three nights. Day 13 Return by air to Gatwick.

12 nights from £795



### DEPARTURE DATE & PRICES

per person (no twin room discount available below)

Wednesday 20th May, 1998

Run-of-the-Ship price: Lower inside £795

Lower outside £835 - Middle outside £895

Upper outside £1050.00 - Top deck £1195.00

Single add 40% to the above prices.

Supplement first class Eurostar and TGV £85.

Incidence: 5-star hotel in Paris, 4-star in Marrakesh and 5-star in Casablanca on room only basis. Full board on cruise, port charges, airport tax, baggage handling, VAT, telephone calls, tips, local taxes, insurance, etc. On-call medical services offered on board. No regional flights included. All transfers apply to all reservations.

0171-6161000



VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6GG

Tourist Information: 0171-6370000

Reservations: 0171-6370000

Our offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. For personal callers please call between 9am and 4pm.

Calcutta Casualty. Confused.

Why fork out for travel cover that won't save the day? WorldCover's annual policy has a 24hr Medical Helpline to talk to doctors in their own language. Still think you can buy any old travel insurance?

WORLDCOVER

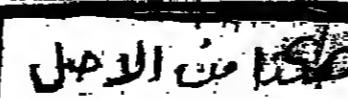
TRAVEL INSURANCE

The Calcutta ad

# never fly to New Zealand on a Tuesday

We now fly 6 days a week to Auckland, Sydney and Los Angeles. But not on Tuesdays. For more information call 0500 444 747

AIR NEW ZEALAND



ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: FIJI, COOK ISLANDS AND TAHITI

# Taking paradise by storm

Even Fiji has rain and the odd cyclone, says Stephen Clarence

**A**wful weekend in Frinton or Filey is bad enough. A wet weekend in Fiji is worse. The expectations are so much higher.

Halfway through a damp afternoon on the cruise ship, most have retreated to their cabins. A Fijian choir is crooning over the PA. It sings of a land of swaying palm trees, gently lapping water, golden beaches and balmy evenings. Outside the cabin window, the rain buckets down over a vision of greyness. Grey sky, grey sea, grey islands, grey honeymooners. On the sun deck, an elderly New Zealand couple unpack umbrellas and plastic rain hoods. They have come back to Fiji after 20 years. It is, they claim, the most beautiful place on Earth.

A few Brits sit around the lounge, dunk their teabags and talk about seafaring shelters back home. "Enjoy your day," urges the cruise bulletin. "And keep smiling."

The four-day cruise, with the Fiji-based Blue Lagoon company, is the first leg of a whistle-stop tour of paradise — or at any rate of three South Pacific islands claiming to be its last outpost. In 12 days, the tour — mostly by air — takes in Fiji, Tahiti and Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and zips backwards and forwards over the International Date Line, putting a day in credit here and in debit there. "Is it yesterday yet?" asks a bewildered holidaymaker after three or four days. "Yesterday comes after tomorrow," says his fellow time-traveller. They keep smiling.

It's time for Paradise Mark One — Fiji's tiny Plantation Island, which an American sailor called Louis Armstrong bought from the Fijians in 1860 for the bargain price of one musket. Prices have spiralled since then. The beach resort now based on the island stages weddings combining the exotic (Fijian warrior escort, £32), with the homely (English fruit-cake, £39). A wedding under way on a terrace next to the bay where a fat man is splashing backwards and forwards in a kayak. The Australian bride is swathed in tulle, the groom wears a wing collar and waistcoat as though for a snooker tournament. The choir (20 Fijian villagers, £64) sings *All the Earth Proclaims the Lord* with a seductive sweetness. But we are tired and hurry back to the ship.

The *MV Mystique Princess* is sleek and comfortable, despite the piped muzak. Over a traditional dinner of kokoda — raw fish marinated in coconut milk and lime juice — a crew member enthuses about curried fruit bat and



Rainclouds loom over Moorea Island, near Tahiti in French Polynesia. "Paradise is in your head... it could be devilish if you were unhappy," said a local character, Le Sauvage Blanc

offers advice on how to behave. "It's tacit," he says, "not to mention cannibalism in Fiji. Barbecued thigh bone and baked forearms have long been phased out, and westerners' jokes don't go down well." It's a far cry from the 18th century when "Eat me" was the correct way to greet a tribal chief. One chief, Ratu Odeodre, took his subjects at their word and ate around 1,000.

**N**ext morning, I feel as though I have eaten 2,000. The sky is dark, the rain streaks the window and the ship is rolling like mad. Channel crossing. For the first time in my life, I am seasick. As we dock at Lautoka, Fiji's third town, we encounter a new word: cyclone. Cyclone Gavin blew through here a fortnight ago. Cyclone Jim is reportedly on his way. Fiji is on Cyclone Alert.

Lautoka is a very Asian town. Indians, for the most part descendants of indentured labourers brought to Fiji in the 19th century, make up a

large part of the population. The shops are run by Patels and Rajeeshes, and the buses are named after Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god.

Out of town, beyond cloudy mountains and across networks of railway lines for sugar cane trucks, the stylish first-class restaurant-resort at Vusua Point displays a 1930s poster that captures the lush image of "The South Seas". It shows a lounging Fijian woman with flowers in her hair and a Dorothy Lamour sarong, watching a Pan American flying boat landing with "butcherly grace on a bay. It is idyllic, a place to look back in languor.

At the vast Fijian Resort — a whole holiday island — a signpost points the way to Golf/Tennis/Fire-walking. Fire-walking, or "jumping in the oven", is a ritual, traditionally in honour of the spirits, involving walking barefoot on white hot stones without getting burnt. The manager talks about his regular guests, including Noleen Hogan — Paul Hogan's first wife — you know, Crocodile Dundee. She's been 59 times. She's totally unpretentious.

Late news: Cyclone Jim has merged into Cyclone June and blown past. It prompts nostalgic tales of Hurricane Fergus.

Next day, we leave at 5.30am for lunch in New Zealand. It's a good start — a three-hour flight from Fiji to Auckland, five hours in New Zealand and a four-hour flight on to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands — Paradise Mark Two. The International Date Line ensures we have two consecutive Sundays.

At Rarotonga Airport, young women rush forward with shell necklaces. They wear crowns of flowers so luxuriant that their heads are like hanging baskets. The announcement serenades new arrivals with ukulele songs. Suddenly things look up.

Rarotonga is the sort of island that appears in your dreams. It is dominated by mountains that are towering turrets of rock with serrated spines. Dense jungle blankets the higher slopes but peters out into lush farmland, paw-



SUNDAY SERVICE: THERE ARE CHURCHES EVERYWHERE

#### SOUTH PACIFIC FACT FILE

- Stephen Clarence travelled with Australasia and Air New Zealand. Australasia (0171-734 7759) organises a wide range of South Pacific holidays: a 14-night holiday including Tahiti, Moorea, Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Fiji costs from £1,579 per person. Blue Lagoon cruises — bookable through Australasia — cost from £309 per person for three days, including all transfers, meals and activities; a four-day cruise on the *Mystique Princess* costs from £640.
- British passport holders do not need visas to visit Fiji, the Cook Islands or Tahiti.
- Vaccinations are not compulsory for Fiji, the Cook Islands or Tahiti, but check with your GP.
- Best times to visit: Fiji: the dry season between June and November, when there is less risk of tropical cyclones. Cook Islands: pleasant year-round even temperatures but less chance of rain between April and October; Tahiti: June to August when it's driest and coolest.
- Further reading: *Adventuring in the Pacific* (Sierra Club Books, £10.99); *Fiji Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £8.99); *Rarotonga & the Cook Islands Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £6.95); *Tahiti & French Polynesia Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £10.99).

paw plantations, clumps of mango trees and avocados, starfruit and oranges, and coconut palms with bands of tin nailed round their trunks to stop rats climbing up.

Rarotonga is an unpretentious place. Its parliament building is a former construction workers' hostel and the Paramount Queen — one of three elected rulers — lives in a modest palace. "I call her Auntie Ruth," says our bus driver. Why? "She is my Auntie Ruth."

He explains the symbolism of the flowers: many wear behind their ears: "Behind the

right ear means married; left ear means single; both ears means desperate."

In the modern Roman Catholic cathedral, the service is in Maori. Women in braided coconut leaf hats listen intently as breadfruit trees rustle outside the windows and the sermon is often drowned out by birdsong. The bishop, a New Zealander, is fragrant with flowers. He wears sandals and has a T-shirt under his cassock. The service ends with *Zet It Be*, strummed on guitars.

Religion is the backbone of Rarotonga. There are Chur-

ches for every shade of Christian belief. Avarua, the island capital — a small sprawl of shops — is dominated by a 19th-century churchyard. The oldest monument is to the Reverend J. Williams of the London Missionary Society, who died in 1839, and "who, with his friend Mr Harris was massacred by deluded natives while attempting to convey to them the blessings of salvation."

**T**he town's museum devotes half-a-dozen glass cases to Captain Cook, who first sighted the islands in 1770, and half-a-dozen more to a collection of shells. Next to the Nicobar Hairy-Triton, the Warty Frog-Shell and the Hallstrom Prickly-Winkle are the Dogwood Drupe, the Crispate Venus, the Ambiguous Mitre and the Mutabile Conch.

At the issues desk in the next-door library is Tamara Sushodolsky. She moved here ten years ago. "I was looking for a tropical paradise," she says. "It's the attitude of the people that I like here — welcoming and vibrant."

The Cook Islands atmosphere is easy-going, tiring, no worries, no hurries. A 45-minute flight away from Rarotonga — and a near-neighbour in Pacific terms — is Aitutaki, an atoll encircling a lagoon of the ultimate in ultramarine. It would be high on anyone's list of desert islands.

At the Lagoon Resort, assistant manager Noel Marsters promises an island tour. He is the great, great grandson of a Gloucestershire mariner who came here on a schooner, jumped ship, married five wives, fathered 12 children and was disowned by his family. The resort manager, Steve Christian, is a descendant of Fletcher Christian, the *Bounty* mutineer, who discovered many of these islands.

Mr Marsters can't find a bus for the tour, so he invents two white plastic garden chairs on the back of a pick-up truck. A lady crime novelist and I bounce along like a road king and queen on makeshift thrones.

He points out the children

and grandchildren of American GIs stationed here during the war and waves to people standing in the doorways of their pre-fab-style houses. "Europeans often paint themselves a different picture of what they expect, and in some cases they're disappointed." There are no grass skirts now, he says. The only thatched huts are the tourist mock-ups in the Lagoon Resort. He waves wildly at a big man in a bright shirt, shorts and flip-flops. "King Tamatoa — either Tamatoa IV or Tamatoa V," he says. The king is sitting on an oil can.

Aitutaki is trying to resist pressure to upgrade its air-strip so international charter flights could use it, even though this would boost tourism and provide new employment for the young. "There's always a jettty to be mended," says Mr Marsters and heads off to pick up a delivery of tinted beetroot salad and peach slices. "Many tourists come here to do nothing," he says. "We find it very peculiar."

Some do less than nothing

and Tahiti. Paradise Mark Three, where we touch down at 2.30am. On the offshore island of Moorea, the vegetation is even more lush than in the Cooks and four-wheel drives trundle up near-vertical mountain tracks taking tourists from one spectacular view to the next.

We lunch at Tiki Village, where muscular young men in tight loincloths tattoo visitors, and shapely young women in coconut-shell bras strum ukuleles. It's the back-to-nature brainchild of Olivier Briac, a former Moulin Rouge choreographer who now calls himself Le Sauvage Blanc. He walks around bare-chested, wears a sarong and has a scarlet hibiscus behind his (right/married) ear.

So is this the ultimate paradise? "Paradise is in your head," he says, flashing a matinee idol smile. "It could be devilish if you were unhappy."

As we wait for the bus to the next resort, the Bee Gees play way to *Abba*, the skies darken and a storm breaks over Paradise. We keep smiling.

## HAVA SUMMER HOLIDAY THIS WINTER.

Even as Britain shivers, the weather in Eilat is bright and hot. Where better to sizzle in the sun, from just £249 a week? Eilat is just five hours away, with flights from Luton, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester.

CALL PELTOURS ON  
0181 343 0590

**EILAT**

HAVA GREAT HOLIDAY IN ISRAEL

STOL 681 ABTA V687

**CELEBRATE 100 YEARS AT SEA**

What better time than the Millennium to celebrate the Centenary of one of the greatest shipping lines, ever. For your free brochure of our galleys 66-night cruise around Africa and the Spice Islands of the Indian Ocean, call 01703 22 62 32. [www.union-castle-line.com](http://www.union-castle-line.com)

**UNION-CASTLE LINE**  
CENTENARY VOYAGE  
DECEMBER 1999 - FEBRUARY 2000

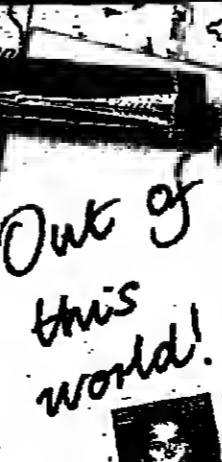
**I came back from my Saga Holiday 2 weeks older and 10 years younger...**

...Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details, so you can have the time of your life. Service, quality and unbeatable value are just some of the hallmarks. So, whether it's a hotel stay, coach tour or cruise, our friendly staff, carefully chosen accommodation and well-planned itineraries ensure you enjoy a well-earned break.

45 years of listening to comments and suggestions has taught us just what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many people book with us again and again. If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour brochure request line now.

**SAGA**  
FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

FREE 0800 300 456 Ext: A788



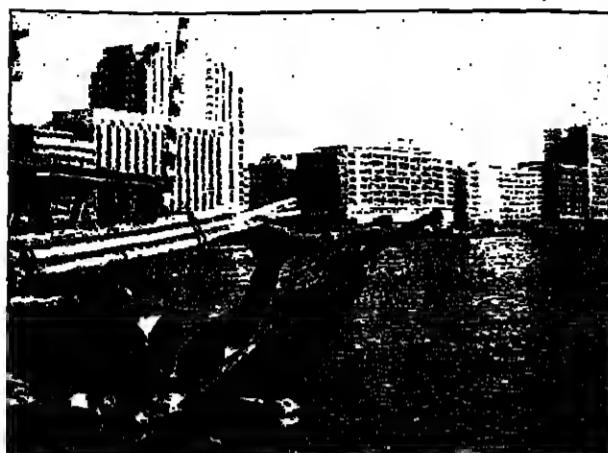
Send for your brochures today

Worldwide	<input type="checkbox"/>
USA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the world	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flight only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cruises	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>
River	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saga Rose (exclusive to Saga)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Europe & the Mediterranean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel Stays	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coach Tours	<input type="checkbox"/>
United Kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel Stays	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coach Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (Mr) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (Mrs/Miss) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Do you currently receive brochures from Saga? Yes  No   
Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd, FREEPOST (NT2710), Peterlee X, Co. Durham SR88 1SH. You do not need a stamp. Saga Holidays Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to other companies to enable them to do the same.



# To buy or not to buy in Dubai



The Creek which cuts through the centre of the city

**Dubai's shopping festival draws the big spenders. But bargains can be elusive, says Jo Foley**

**I**t was sale time in downtown Dubai and we were there to make the most of it. For one month each spring, this Gulf city — one of the seven emirates that forms the United Arab Emirates — holds a shopping festival. This year's runs from March 19 to April 18. Last year, three of us, intrepid shoppers to a woman, with at least a black belt each in bargain hunting, took on the malls, markets, souks and stores.

For two days we went back and forth across the Creek (the deep water inlet that cuts through the centre of the city), rushing from bus to boat to taxi, scouring the stalls, markets and marble-and-chlorite shopping malls for something to buy.

There are more than a dozen shopping malls in downtown Dubai, housing everything from *infiniti* to shoe-shops, electronics outlets to sports shops, men's, women's and children's shops, designer boutiques, supermarkets, record stores and fast-food joints.

All the labels are there: Gucci, Dior, DKNY, Adidas, Reebok, Hugo Boss, Givenchy, even Ikea.

We were speechless with

failure. It was not because there was a dearth of goods — it was just because everything was either the wrong size or not to our taste.

All the styles on offer seemed to have been chosen with the indigenous or expatriate market in mind, and were either too shiny, too glistery or too bright for us. Some of them would have looked terrific in

Marbella or Margate, but not in London or Manchester.

It was the same with the cosmetic shades — sea-green eyeshadow has never worked in daylight.

And although there were some severely elegant outfits in the *Dubai Karian* boutique, we knew we could get them more cheaply in the United States.

The gold, however, was amazing. Gold prices in Dubai are among the cheapest in the world and the gold souk, with every square centimetre glittering and gleaming, is the sort of place where you might expect Aladdin to meet Midas.

While we were there the merchants had thought up a great incentive: for every 500 dirhams spent (£33), your name was entered into a free daily raffle to win a kilo of gold. At the end of the month all the names were entered for the biggest prize — ten kilos of gold.

Not since the great Yukon gold rush did so many go in search of so much. We really tried to buy. We agonised over so many trays of rings, bangles, chains and earrings.

One of us nearly parted with serious money for a pair of drop earrings with pearls, but inspected in the cold light of day they somehow lost their appeal.

The gold was of the 22 and 24-carat variety, which is not only the purest but also the brightest yellow — too garish for pallid northern lobes and necks.

There were some 18 carat items but they were few and unexciting — little chains and gated bracelets — hence our desperation to splash out when, on the periphery of the main gold souk, we found the silver merchants.

The prices were exceptional: about £3 to £12 for heavy, wide bangles and £18 for an elegant torque.

The CDs were bought in another frenzied attempt to spend — three for just over £18. Other bargains were the saffron which, even though it purported to come from Spain, was a mere £5 for a substantial box, while the rose petals were

almost nothing: £3 for a huge bag.

The chiffon T-shirt was all of £12 in the bargain basement of a hotel boutique while the sandals — high, black and strappy — were a mere £18. The sunglasses were £33 a pair, almost half what we would have paid in London.

These finds didn't really make up for our retail disappointment, but the raffles did. Dubai Duty Free, at the airport, is renowned for its car raffles, but during the shopping festival there were raffles everywhere.

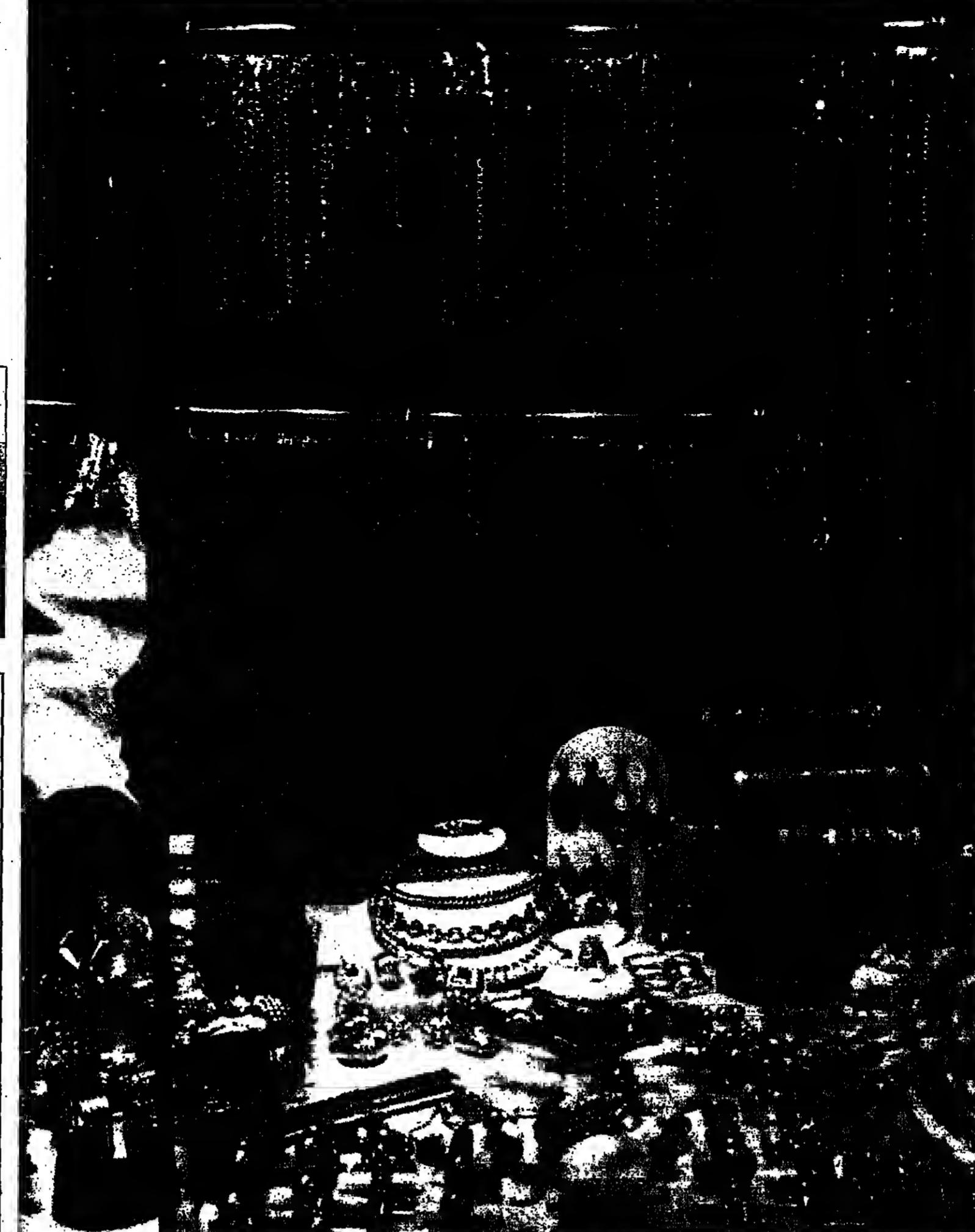
For £20 you could win a Porsche, a Mercedes, a BMW or some other piece of serious machinery and as only 1,000 tickets were sold for each contest the odds were extremely good.

We became like women possessed and even formed a syndicate to treble our chances, while planning how to spend our shared thousands. The real prize in Dubai, however, is the desert, and when the shopping gets too much it's definitely worth a visit.

Tour organisers and operators now offer sand-skiing, dune driving and *wadi* bashing (driving across dry river beds), but to my mind, all you really need to do is to wonder at the size and silence of it.

About an hour's drive from the city through the desert will bring you to Hatta — an old fort on the edge of a mountain range.

The surrounding landscape, with its near-Biblical vistas and hidden freshwater pools, is one of the most beautiful you can see anywhere within a seven-hour flight from London.



More than a dozen shopping malls make downtown Dubai a paradise for bargain hunters. Gold prices are among the cheapest in the world

failure. It was not because there was a dearth of goods — it was just because everything was either the wrong size or not to our taste.

All the styles on offer seemed to have been chosen with the indigenous or expatriate market in mind, and were either too shiny, too glistery or too bright for us. Some of them would have looked terrific in

Marbella or Margate, but not in London or Manchester.

It was the same with the cosmetic shades — sea-green eyeshadow has never worked in daylight.

And although there were some severely elegant outfits in the *Dubai Karian* boutique, we knew we could get them more cheaply in the United States.

The gold, however, was amazing. Gold prices in Dubai are among the cheapest in the world and the gold souk, with every square centimetre glittering and gleaming, is the sort of place where you might expect Aladdin to meet Midas.

While we were there the merchants had thought up a great incentive: for every 500 dirhams spent (£33), your name was entered into a free daily raffle to win a kilo of gold. At the end of the month all the names were entered for the biggest prize — ten kilos of gold.

Not since the great Yukon gold rush did so many go in search of so much. We really tried to buy. We agonised over so many trays of rings, bangles, chains and earrings.

One of us nearly parted with serious money for a pair of drop earrings with pearls, but inspected in the cold light of day they somehow lost their appeal.

The gold was of the 22 and 24-carat variety, which is not only the purest but also the brightest yellow — too garish for pallid northern lobes and necks.

There were some 18 carat items but they were few and unexciting — little chains and gated bracelets — hence our desperation to splash out when, on the periphery of the main gold souk, we found the silver merchants.

The prices were exceptional: about £3 to £12 for heavy, wide bangles and £18 for an elegant torque.

The CDs were bought in another frenzied attempt to spend — three for just over £18. Other bargains were the saffron which, even though it purported to come from Spain, was a mere £5 for a substantial box, while the rose petals were

## SHOP

Savvy shopping: Some smaller establishments offer discounts which they are not licensed to advertise, so it's worth taking a chance on the less likely-looking places.

Keep an eye on the exchange rate and gold prices, listed at the airport, in hotels and in local newspapers. It's worth haggling on gold. Cuts of between 10 and 15 per cent are the norm.

Unexpected pleasures: Expect to find gold, spices and designer-label bargains. Caviar is cheap and widely available. Saffron and exotic oils are very cheap.

Faking it: For designer goods at back-street prices, head to the Karama district, where you'll find realistic reproductions. Good deals to be had on jeans, clothes, shoes and fake watches.

Knowing your limits: Travellers returning to the UK from non-EU countries have to pay duty on gifts and souve-



Watch the locals shop

nirs worth more than £145. Dubai Duty Free is famous for its wide selection of leatherware and electronics, as well as the usual spirits, tobacco and cosmetics, so give yourself plenty of time.

Paying your way: Major credit cards are accepted everywhere, and it is easy to exchange sterling or travellers' cheques.

Maximising the experience: Usual shop opening hours are 9am to 1pm and 4pm to 9pm. It's cooler at night and the lighting lends a lustre to the gold and jewellery.

Stop off at local *shawarma* outlets for chicken or lamb with salad stuffed into warm Arabic bread. Most hotels have restaurants with a range of Indian, Thai, Chinese and Filipino dishes for less than £2.

Further information: Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (0171-839 0580); United Arab Emirates Embassy (0171-831 1281/4113); Arabian Incentives (081-900 0280), for groups; Shopping Festival Website: <http://DubaiSF.com>.

CHLOE BRYAN-BROWN

## Virgin MegaSavers

San Francisco from £279 return.



For world beating offers that include all taxes, call us by 19 March on 01293 747 245, or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic

What's the foundation of a great holiday? We laid ours over 6000 years ago.



The Maltese Islands' history embraces shipwrecks, knights and fortresses. Its fashionable shops, bars and restaurants lace its streets and squares, and hidden coves with sun-drenched beaches are just waiting to be discovered. All this and friendly English speaking people.

make Malta the perfect foundation for the perfect holiday.

For more information about the Maltese Islands, call 0171 292 4900.

E-mail: [offices@tourism.malta.govt.mt](mailto:offices@tourism.malta.govt.mt) <http://www.tourism.malta.govt.mt>

The very heart of the Mediterranean

THE  
MALTESE  
ISLANDS



Day DREAMS  
SPECIALIST in traditional  
schooners & gulet charters.  
Also floating house parties  
ideal for single travellers  
or couples. (Gourmet food)  
0171 637 8921  
<http://www.netconnected.com/daydreams>  
TURKEY A Land Unique  
KONYA DEPARTURE CALL 0171 637 8921

SEAT BACK TV IN ECONOMY

For world beating offers that include all taxes, call us by 19 March on 01293 747 245, or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic

Terms and conditions apply. Book by 19 March 1998. United States by 19 March 1998. United Kingdom by 19 March 1998. Offer available until 30 June 1998.





Ski touring in Switzerland is still as tough as it was in Conan Doyle's day. "You must not fall over, and you must not stop," snapped our guide

## ANCIENT RUSSIA and its Waterways

A visit to Russia for the genuine traveller is one of life's great experiences. So many just dip their toes in the water with a brief visit to Moscow or St Petersburg which is interesting enough in its own way. However, for a comprehensive experience, there is nothing like a two week trip which includes both Moscow and St Petersburg, together with the cities of the Golden Ring and the delights of the changeless Russian countryside.

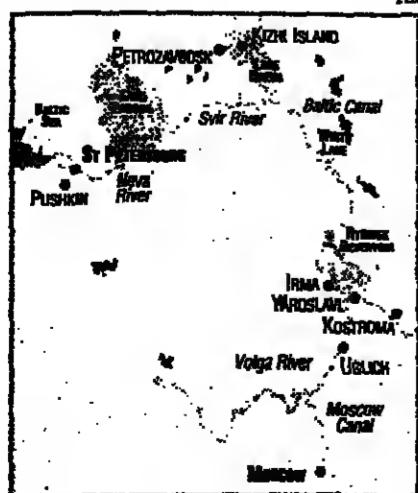
With three days in both Moscow and St Petersburg there is plenty of time to explore the sights. The remaining eight days are spent journeying between the two cities on an intricate pattern of connecting rivers, canals and lakes which will take us through a rolling landscape, dotted with farms, villages and towns, their rooftops often dominated by exotically shaped onion-domed churches.

Our exploration of ancient Russia will introduce us to the magical Golden Ring cities of Holy Russia which still preserve their medieval kremils, fortified monasteries and beautiful cathedrals and churches. In the great forests of Karelia we will encounter the vast lakes of Ladoga and Onega and experience the tranquil and timeless quality of the Russian countryside.

**MS LENIN & MS LITVINOV**

The ideal way to explore Russia is aboard a comfortable river vessel. Apart from the obvious convenience of having a moving hotel and thereby avoiding packing, long coach journeys and infamous domestic flights, your river ship affords an excellent means for seeing much more of Russia than would be the case by other methods of transport.

Sailing past villages and towns, many of which were important trading posts in the Middle Ages, you are able to observe riverside life and from an often central mooring position, explore the port of call.



A 14 night river journey linking Russia's two greatest cities – Moscow & St Petersburg

MAY TO SEPTEMBER 1998

These large modern vessels were specially designed for the Russian waterways and each accommodates up to 260 passengers in 'outside' cabins with private shower and toilet. The vessels are under a long term charter to an American company who are responsible for the day to day operation of the vessel. This is an important consideration when selecting your vessel as our ships are only manned in English speaking countries and consequently English is the language used onboard, unlike many other vessels which are multi-lingual.

The public areas include lounges, bars, dining room, hairdressers, shop, clinic, and spacious deck areas for relaxation and observation. The vessels are air-conditioned throughout and offer a good level of comfort. The meals on board are prepared for western taste, but also include some traditional Russian dishes.

**Prices per person sharing a twin bedded cabin range from £1205 and from £1795 for sole occupancy of a double cabin**

**Price includes:** Scheduled air travel, 14 nights cruise on full board, excursions, entrance fees (except in the cathedrals in the Moscow Kremlin), transportation, local guides, UK departure tax, airport taxes, guest lecturer, cruise director and tour manager.

**Not including:** Travel insurance, Russian visa, optional excursions, tips to crew.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS**  
Please telephone 0171-409 0376  
(7 days a week during office hours)

**NOBLE CREDONIA (LTD)**  
11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE  
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0276 FAX/TELEX 0171-409 1424  
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424  
AOL: 3189

### FACT FILE

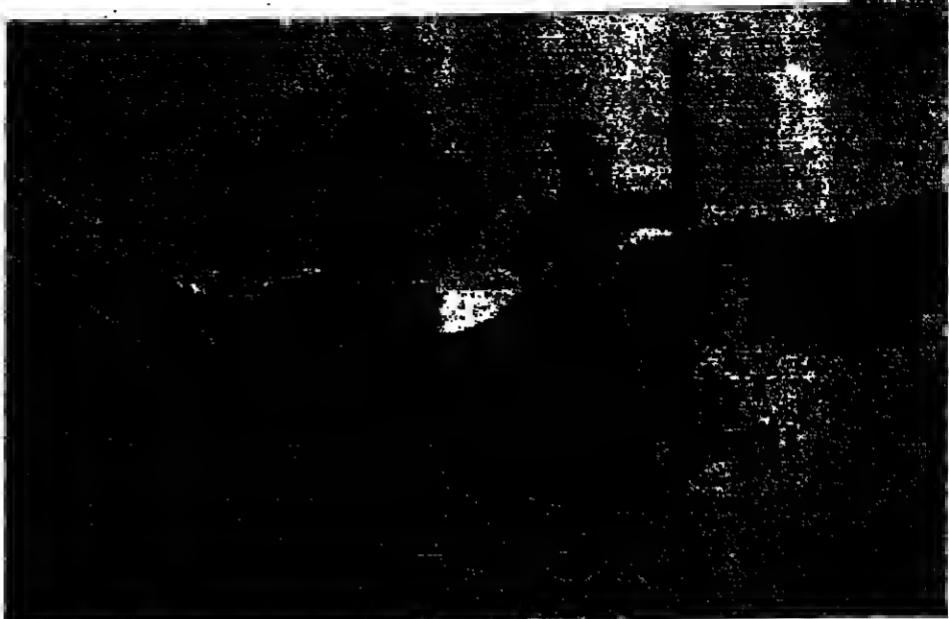
■ Minty Clinch was a guest of Swiss Travel Service in 1992. Hotel Fluela, seven nights' half board, from £772 including scheduled flights, with availability in March and April 1998-99 winter holidays booked before March 31 will be at 1997-98 prices.

■ The Conan Doyle Classic can be arranged through the Swiss Ski School in Davos Dorf (00 41 81 416 2456). A typical package costs £115 a day (for one to three people). Details: Davos Tourist Office (00 41 81 415 2222).

■ Many Conan Doyle enthusiasts are drawn to Meiringen, in the eastern Bernese Oberland, site of the Reichenbach Falls where Sherlock Holmes and the evil Moriarty plunged to their fictional deaths.

British Holmes fans make an occasional pilgrimage there in May (the Sherlock Holmes Society, 081-540 7657 or 01669 811314, has details), and there is a small Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen (00 41 33 971 4431).

# Elementary way to climb the mountain



"You naturally expect trouble when you are beginning," Conan Doyle wrote

**O**n March 23, 1894, Arthur Conan Doyle made history by crossing the Maienfelder Furka pass from Davos to Arosa on skis. He left under "a great pale moon in a violet sky", a Renaissance man carrying 8ft "Norwegian snowshoes" on his shoulder. His companions were Switzerland's ski pioneers, Tobias and Johannes Branger, respectively a saddler and a summer mountain guide.

As the spring sun rose over the mountains, the trio strapped on their snowshoes with makeshift leather bindings and fell into a rhythm for the trudge up to the 2,440m pass. In the late morning, they descended through deep powder, arriving at the Hotel Seefeld in time for lunch.

A piece of cake, or so it seemed more than 100 years later in the bar of the Hotel Fluela as our guide told us the itinerary for the next day. After breakfast, we would take the bus from Davos to Frauenkirche to start our adventure, whereas Conan Doyle had walked. We would climb on touring skis with skins, whereas he used rudimentary string nets to prevent his skin from slipping backwards. We had the best waterproof clothing, whereas he wore a Harris tweed outfit that his tailor had assured him was indestructible. The trip to Arosa would prove this boast wrong. "He [the tailor] will find samples of his ware on view from the Furka Pass to Arosa," Conan Doyle wrote in an account of the journey in *Strand Magazine*.

Conan Doyle's two-year flirtation with Davos began in the autumn of 1893 when he booked his wife, Louise, into one of the sanatoriums for which the town was famous. At 35, he was at the peak of his powers, as a doctor and scientist as well as a novelist, yet he readily gave it all up for the slim hope of curing Louise's tuberculosis. He sold his house and furniture, left their two young children with his mother and killed off Sherlock Holmes — only temporarily, it transpired — to concentrate on his beloved "Louie".

When she began to recover, he found time to follow up Tobias Branger's advertisement for the "snowshoes" he had imported from Norway in 1890. The Branger brothers

him for half a mile to break his fall if need be.

Then came "the real sport of snowshoeing: we shot along over gently dipping curves, skimming down the valley without a motion of our feet. In that great unbroken waste, with snowfields bounding vision on every side, and no marks of life save the track of chamois and foxes, it was glorious to whiz along in this easy fashion."

More precipices awaited further down, so steep that the Brangers lashed their skis together, to fashion impromptu toboggans. "Sitting on our skis, with our heels dug into the snow and our sticks pressed hard down behind us, we began to move down the precipitous face of the pass," Conan Doyle wrote. "I think both my companions came to grief over it. I know they were as white as Lot's wife at the bottom."

With modern techniques and equipment, the precipice factor was much reduced and we worked our way down over a glistening sheet of ice covering pockets of false snow.

**T**urn, turn," cried our guide, obsessed with getting back to his wife or his local bar as soon as possible. I reflected on lunch in the Seefeld Hotel and let caution rule, but the guide had the last laugh as we stopped on the banks of the lake at Arosa. Where was the town? Triumphantly, he pointed up the hill. Forty tortuous minutes later we were snatching a beer at the railway station before the three-hour journey back to Davos. A wizened ancient then explained that it was possible to take a lift up the Strüe pass and ski down to Arosa without breaking sweat.

Conan Doyle made the trip in reverse four days later. Within a month, he had climbed the Bramabuel on the other side of the Davos valley.

"I am convinced," he wrote, "that the time will come when hundreds of Englishmen will come to Switzerland for the skiing season. I believe I may be the first, save only two Switzers, to do any mountain work, but I am certain I will not be many thousands be the last."

How right he was: the Bramabuel T-bar is there to prove it.

## Deeply Relaxing



In the Cayman Islands the beaches are powder white, the sea is turquoise and the average year round temperature 82°F. Stroll with the stingrays. Visit Caymanian villages and meet our friendly people. Stroll through the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. Play golf on championship courses. Rise to the challenge of exciting wall dives.

In a world where relaxation is hard to come by, isn't it good to know you will find it here in this peaceful British Crown Colony in the Caribbean?

British Airways fly direct three times a week. And holidays start from only £649 for one week.

Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE · Telephone 0171-491 7771 · Fax 0171-491 7773 · e-mail: info@cayman.com

Grand Cayman · Cayman Brac · Little Cayman  
**CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
0171-491 7771

# Have baby, will travel with ease

RICHARD DUNN

**Sean Coughlan wanted to take his family to Paris – but would the train or plane be least stressful?**



You must have seen the couple travelling with the baby from hell. Whether it's in a departure lounge or a railway station, there's always the same grim scene of a caterwauling infant flanked by exhausted parents, often covered in baby yoghurt and shouting bitter recriminations at each other. The only remaining issue is whether they ring the dry cleaners or the divorce lawyers first.

Travelling with a baby that has decided it doesn't want to travel can be a chilling experience. So any attempt to ease the path of the parental traveller is to be warmly welcomed. On the keenly competitive London-to-Paris route, where every passenger counts, both Eurostar and the airlines have taken steps to attract parents with young children.

But how do they really compare? Travelling with our six-month-old daughter, said friends, would be about as relaxing as taking a hungry goat around a supermarket. There'd be chaos, tantrums and tears. There'd be no access for the pushchair. The baby would hate the long train journey and scream her way through take-off and landing. There'd be parental angst in abundance.

In practice, when my wife Estelle and I tested both journeys, our fears proved unfounded as both Eurostar and Air France were reassuringly well-equipped. Anna, our baby test pilot, dozed untroubled through much of both journeys, lulled by the motion of sleep. And the facilities in Heathrow and on board the train made feeding and changing relatively hassle-free.

Where both journeys became much more difficult was the getting to and from city centres and airports and railway stations. Travelling with a baby in a pushchair on a crowded tube to Heathrow is a slow-motion glimpse of purgatory. In Paris, the journeys from Charles de Gaulle and

All set to go: Sean Coughlan and six-month-old Anna (above) board the train for the Paris leg of the journey

The Coughlans' journey was relatively easy (right), despite warnings to the contrary from friends



Buggy been there, done that. Air and rail travel was manageable, and fun, for all



IT MUST be some new kind of parental rite of passage to change a nappy while

travelling at high speed beneath the English Channel. While the Eurostar train belted through the Channel Tunnel, I was getting to work with the Huggies.

Each Eurostar train has a baby changing room, with mat, sink and nappy bags. As well as changing nappies, on the evening that we travelled the room was being used by parents dressing their babies for bed. The three-hour journey is long enough for children to settle down to sleep and our carriage, which had other families with young children, soon resembled a mobile dormitory.

On the downside, you are stuck on the train for three hours, with no way of break-

ing the journey. So if your baby decides that train isn't the way to travel, then you're in trouble.

The only way to change the scenery is to take the baby on a tour of the train, with such limited diversions as a trip to the buffet.

Waterloo was much better organised for pushchair traffic, with a lift from the international to the mainline station and staff at the ticket gates in the tube station.

As well as selling cold drinks to soothe adult brows, the staff in the buffet were also happy enough to warm up a bottle of baby food in their microwave oven, although with the observation that an earlier attempt had caused a baby-food explosion in what sounded like a noxious cheese-flavoured Chernobyl.

It's difficult to generalise about how babies react to new surroundings, but our daughter took to the journey without a murmur. It helps that there's almost no hanging around in the terminal beforehand, with passport control being on the train and checking-in being limited to putting a ticket into a gate.

The hardest part of the journey was trying to get out

of the underground system and into the mainline station at Gare du Nord. There were no staff to open the ticket barrier to allow us to take the pushchair through.

If two people are travelling with a child it is possible for one person to go through the gate while the second deals with baby and pushchair. But if you were travelling alone, I don't see how you would get through.

Waterloo was much better organised for pushchair traffic, with a lift from the international to the mainline station and staff at the ticket gates in the tube station.

Babies seem to come with an in-built, and very sensitive, stress detector and the Eurostar journey, taken as a whole, left our offspring smiling rather than howling.

By PLANE

THE greatest disadvantage of taking the plane is the part of the journey over which the airlines have least control: the trip to Heathrow. We live 18 miles from the airport, in South London, and the journey by train and tube took us 1½ hours. The winner of the

London Marathon could have run there faster.

A pushchair "and" a slow, stop-start, overcrowded Tube journey are almost all the ingredients you need for a major baby meltdown, with parents registering stress levels high enough to show up on the Richter scale.

But once we arrived at Heathrow's Terminal Two things began to look up. In terms of baby facilities the terminal designers seem to have done their homework.

There were impressively clean changing rooms in the

main terminal and departure lounge, with changing mats, a bottle-warmer and sink.

If you need baby food, there's a branch of Boots here, so you can pop bottled Parsnip Bake and Egg Custard into your duty-free bags.

Escalators and stairs are the great enemy of pushchairs, and, in terms of accessibility, there were ramps and lifts throughout the terminal offering alternative routes. Also smoothing the way was the fact that we were able to keep the pushchair until we reached the departure gate,

where it was checked in separately. This might not sound much, but if you've been stuck on a tube with a baby rearing for a Munch painting, this is some kind of parent heaven.

The flight took little more than 40 minutes and our daughter slept in her mother's arms throughout (there was no separate seat-belt, untroubled by take-off or landing). Staff at the check-in and on board were helpful and, as a small perk, parents with young children were given a bag with baby wipes, baby lotion and a teething toy.

Getting to our hotel on the Left Bank was less straightforward. The lift at the airport terminal in Paris was broken, which meant carrying baby and pushchair downstairs. Again, getting on and off the RER suburban rail system meant hauling baby and pushchair over ticket barriers, which were all unattended.

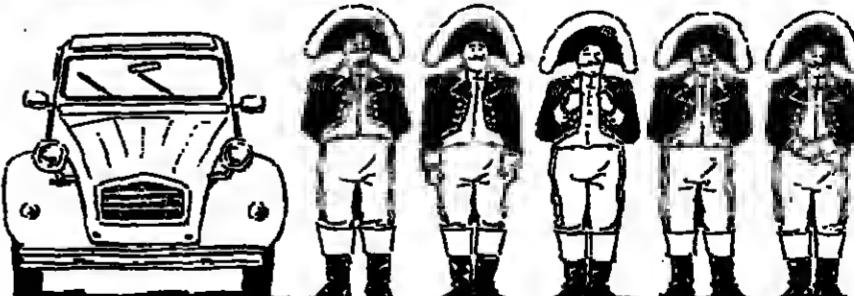
If the flight could be isolated from the rest of the journey, one could recommend flying for any baby-toting parent.

But the largest part of the journey was spent on underground trains or in airports, so the plane comes a close second to the ease and comfort of the train.

## SAVE UP TO

# 50%

FROM DOVER  
TO CALAIS  
THIS SUMMER.



£89 CAR PLUS 5 PEOPLE.

Book early with SeaFrance and get the lowest fare around. Just book and pay for your SeaFrance crossing before 31st March 1998 and it's just £89\* for a car and five passengers standard return.

What's more, you can change the date and time of your sailing at no extra charge. So don't waste time phoning around for the best fare - you've already found it! We guarantee the best deals from Dover to Calais. For half-price fares and no restrictions, call SeaFrance today.

SEAFRANCE  
DOVER-CALAIS FERRIES

0990 711 711

\*Tolls non-refundable. Lowest Price Guarantee. Discount based on standard peak fare of up to £220.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

from £499

**HONG KONG, BANGKOK + BEACH**

3 nts Hong Kong, 4 nts Bangkok, 5 nts Cha-Am

STANFORD, Hong Kong: excellent medium class hotel in Kowloon. Restaurants, bar, airconditioned rooms; TV, minibar, phone, bath/shower. Single rooms have shower only.

ASIA, Bangkok: good medium class hotel, centrally located near Siam Square. Pool, fitness room, 24 hour coffee shop. Rooms are airconditioned with TV, radio, phone, bath and shower.

REGENT, Cha-Am: charming 1 class hotel, set on a 4 mile stretch of sandy beach. Choice of restaurants, bar, swimming pools, fitness room, tennis, squash. Shuttle bus service into Hua Hin. Rooms are airconditioned with phone, TV, radio, minibar, bath, shower and balcony.

Departure dates:	Price:	Departure dates:	Price:
22-24 Mar '98	£549	25 Jun	£519
13-21 22 Apr	£579	02 Jul	£589
23-30 Apr	£619	09-23 Jul	£619
18 May	£499	13 Aug	£799
23 May	£499	03, 10 Sep	£799
08 Jun	£499	01, 22 Oct	£699
11 Jun	£519	05, 12 Nov	£619

The price includes Scheduled flights: Heathrow, 1½ hrs. Dept to: £50, 12 hrs return (no meals). Transfers: Price per person sharing min. Not included: Local dep't tax (UK: £14.50, Thailand: £25 approx.). Optional insurance: £5. Booking conditions apply.

To book, telephone: (open daily inc Sat/Sun)

**01306 744300**

Fax: 01306 744334

ATA 1994

4701 10

The Travel Collection, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4ZJ

**CROATIA** A New Welcome. An Old Friend

FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES CALL 0181 563 2792 OR CONTACT CROATIAN NATIONAL TOURISM OFFICE AT 2, THE LANCHESTER, 162-164 FULHAM PALACE ROAD LONDON W6 9ER. FAX: 0181 563 2616.

Lesley Chamberlain joined a trail ride in Scotland, while Lin Jenkins took her own horse on holiday to Hampshire

## Horsing around in the forest

**A**ttempting to dress five fidgeting bodies in travelling clothes and fit them and their holiday baggage into our lorry began to get irritating. Sensing the excitement in the air and the urgency to be away, the playful five took turns to kick, scream, run around and refuse to budge an inch. Their five owners behaved little better.

Packing everything from protective boots and back-saving nummehs to water-proof rugs and first aid kit, as well as bales of hay and sacks of pony nuts, took ages. But finally the horses were in the lorry and the holiday was under way.

Five of us were taking our horses on holiday to the New Forest, where we were joining two friends. Within minutes of arriving at Brockenhurst, the horses were tacked up and enjoying their first foray away from Surrey's suburbia. The transition proved entertaining. Crumbs, a good-natured gelding, had found the ignominy

of his pre-holiday diet too much to bear. Hardly had the first venture into the wilds begun when he plucked a discarded sandwich from the grass. It seemed fitting when later it was Crumbs who attached his shoe to an empty Coke can. The detritus of the tourists who visit Britain's oldest forest is all too visible near the roadside. But within minutes, on a horse, the traffic noise fades away and only the wildlife troubles the peace. Since riders are allowed anywhere in the forest, even within the enclosure where the fences ensure that native ponies do not eat the trees, you can explore for hours.

For some of the horses it proved a puzzling experience. Sweetie, a failed racehorse embarking on a second career, planted her feet on the ground and snorted on first seeing a river. The only running water such a pampered creature had previously encountered had come from a hosepipe. After a tantrum and display of acrobatics exclusive to those who are so highly bred as to be deficient of common sense, she eventually dipped a toe in the water. But drink from it she would not. Only during the lunch break at a pub, where the water came from a tap and was served by the barman in a plastic bucket, would she drink it. Some of her less well-bred companions showed no such compunction. Zero, a four-year-old cob, threw himself in the river with such abandon that his rider only narrowly avoided a ducking.



The sight of herds of New Forest ponies roaming free caused their domesticated cousins to stand astonished and brace themselves ready to bolt in the opposite direction, and a quiet canter on springy turf turned into a rodent act when a bullock bounced carelessly out of the bracken and into our path.

Twice as many British adults ride as go skiing, and the number of places offering bed and breakfast for both horse and rider is growing rapidly. We stayed at Ford Cottage — £3 a night for each horse in a field (we had brought hay and feed with us) and £18 a head for human B&B in the adjoining house.

The horses returned home looking fitter and sleeker. However, I put an inch on my waistline and blisters on my backsides.

LJ



Lin Jenkins, left, with friends and horses enjoying a pub lunch in the New Forest

## Hoofing it across the Highlands



**T**he only important question asked in the minibus was: "What are the horses like?" We were on our way to the farm near Huntly, Aberdeenshire. An hour later, galloping off on the first leg of our marathon ride across Scotland, it was quite clear that our equine friends were the real thing.

My 16-band bundle of enthusiasm came with hearty advice on how to survive the next ten days: "Barney likes to arrive first." He certainly did but, to be fair, he gave his own warning: a little kick and a whinny of delight before every long green stretch. By the end I felt he had been worth every penny of the holiday cost.

Be warned, though: the beautifully mannered, fit hunters that Fiona Hill uses on the Highland Horseback trail definitely demand experienced riders. However, if you are comfortable at all horse pace, this holiday offers a rare chance to see some fabulous scenery while putting your riding skills and endurance to the test.

The trail from Huntly follows the River Deveron before crossing over the heather-bedded grouse moors and skirting Glenfiddich Forest. At the first night's stop, the riders collapsed in a comfortable hotel in the highest Highland village of Tomintoul, while the horses grazed in fields nearby.



The author Lesley in action

Highland Horseback's driver Hugh brought the luggage in a support vehicle.

Day two began deceptively easily, with a brisk trot up to the local distillery for samples of the 12-year-old single malt, but by six in the evening we had climbed strangely high, with only distant deer and curlews for company, and covered about 25 miles. The whisky smugglers of old, with their pack ponies, surely managed those steep paths with less exhaustion than we did.

Sandy paths through the pines of the ancient Caledonian forest softened the next day's approach to the Cairngorm Mountains, and there were some long, smooth gallops. Via the green and pebbly open spaces of Glen Feshie, and a spectacular pic-



A keen horse and stunning scenery: cantering by the Caledonian Canal on day six of the trail ride across Scotland

nic lunch on the summit, we earned our rest day with a long trek down towards the granite town of Kingussie.

This was the place to visit the laundrette, take a gentle stroll and enjoy the delicious meals prepared by the Burrows at the Osprey Hotel.

We moved off west surrounded by flocks of grouse scuttling across the private estates, soon to be targets of the gun. Our aim was to keep ourselves well out of range. On day six we reached the summit of the Corryvreckan Pass, after miles of mud underfoot and swirling mist round our hats. General Wade's 250-year-old road, built to subdue the Highlanders, had disintegrated into uneven stones and rivulets, but Barney still broke

into a trot up a near-vertical bit. Later, we enjoyed a long and glorious canter down towards Fort Augustus and a gleaming Loch Ness.

All the way to Loch Duich, where the island of Skye hovers just offshore, the landscape kept changing. We cantered through forests, trudged through bogs and gasped at the waterfall-strewn wilderness.

As a rider with long experience but little recent practice, I felt nervous initially, but I never wondered why I was

there. I appreciated the faintly military discipline, with morning and evening grooming and feeding, and heavy tack to carry. Age is no barrier, but it certainly helps to be fit.

L C

• Fiona Hill arranges trail rides from May to September. The ride across Scotland, including meals and accomodation, costs £1,080. Contact: Highland Horseback, Cairngorm Glass, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 6XA (01467 703304).

### SPRING CRUISES ON THE TOPAZ

#### Easter Educational Cruises

Choose from two 7 night cruises departing 3rd and 10th April. • Visit up to six ports of call in one fascinating week. • Highlights include Israel (2 days on both itineraries), Syria, Kusadasi in Turkey, Cyprus, Athens and the islands of Patmos, Rhodes and Santorini. • Following recent major refurbishment, extra cabins now available. • Late availability fares from just £249, including return flights from Gatwick or Manchester, all meals, taxes and insurance. • No visa required. • No sole occupancy supplement.

#### All-Inclusive Transatlantic Cruise

Depart Athens 17th April. • 18 night cruise including meals, drinks, tips and port taxes. • Visit Malta, Gibraltar, Malaga, Madeira, The Azores and Bermuda. • 3 night stay (room only) in Florida. • 21 night holiday from just £1,289 p.p. including return flights and airport taxes. • Last few cabins.

Reservations 01293 433030 • 24 hour brochureline: 01293 433041 **DISCOVERY**  
Voyages of Discovery, P.O. Box 800, Swan Way, Croydon, CR0 2GB  
Tel: 01293 433030 Fax: 01293 433041  
Voyages of Discovery is a trading name of The Grove Travel Ltd. Address as above.

### Brussels and the Belgian Ardennes. Around the corner, another world.

Belgium - world-famous people, culture, art, delicious shopping, world famous gastronomy and charming characterful hotels. And just beyond, the Belgian Ardennes, ancient kingdom of rolling hills, spiced with lush forests and sparkling streams - all less than an hour's drive from your door. For more details send for our new brochure today.

Tel: 07000 ARDENNE (27 33 66)\*

www.belgium-tourism.be



\*10 p.m. weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. • 11 p.m. evenings & weekend

A visit to the church of Santa Caterina is all the more moving when you share the ceremony with a racehorse.

Most will have heard of the palio, a truly spectacular bare-back horse race through the streets of Siena. Few will have been privy to a sacred ceremony in which each horse is blessed in the church of their Contrada. It's an enchanting mediaeval custom and just one of those memorable experiences that makes a holiday with The Magic of Italy so special.

For your copy of one of our brochures featuring specially selected hotels, villas and apartments in the most beautiful locations of Italy, Spain or Portugal see your travel agent, or call us on 0990 462442.

**The Magic of Italy**

THE DETAILS MAKE IT MAGIC

ADULTS £150 CHILDREN £100

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick which Magic brochure you require: ITALY  SPAIN  PORTUGAL

Send to: Magic Brochure Service, FREEPOST HWY2248, Upton, Warr, L49 0TS

Travel between 14 April '98 and 14 June '98, and one child pays just £50.00 when travelling with two adults. Prices start at £479 including scheduled flights, seven nights hotel accommodation, car hire and all departure taxes. Valid new bookings only, subject to availability. Valid for Tampa flights on Tuesdays & Wednesdays and all Miami services from May 1st. For full details and other great offers, call the number below or see your travel agent.

01293 723113  
Mon-Sat 0830-2030, Sun 0930-1700

BRITISH AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS

لondon travel

Anjana Ahuja missed the recent solar eclipse, but she is determined to see next year's

## Star gazers fazed, but not eclipsed

**T**he thought of a cloudy Caribbean day on February 26 would not have bothered most holidaymakers unduly. But for many amateur astronomers, including my husband and I, it was a disaster. It meant that our visit to Antigua to view that most rare and spectacular of astronomical events — a total solar eclipse — had ended in failure.

Total solar eclipses happen only every couple of years at different locations around the world. Because the path of totality — from where the eclipse can be seen — is very narrow, some eclipses can only be seen from the ocean. This is why the ones that take place over land attract thousands of eclipse-chasers, especially from America.

If it transpired that such an event was to grace the islands of Antigua, Guadeloupe, Aruba, Curacao and Montserrat (plus a swath of South America) last month, we, and thousands of others, booked our first international astronomical adventure.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes exactly in front of the Sun, briefly turning day into night. It also gives people a chance to observe the corona surrounding the Sun, an ever-present magnificent halo of light — featuring streaks, loops and streamers — that is normally drowned by the Sun's brightness.

It didn't take long, however, for our confidence in the azure Antiguan skies to dissolve. We had already noted the paucity of weather reports — we tuned in to several radio stations to try to find the best spot on the island for watching it, only to hear crackly prayer sessions by islanders convinced that the momentary darkness wrought by the eclipse spell Armageddon. With only three hours to go before the show-down, the appearance of a few large, fast-moving rainclouds made weather reports all the more urgent. Armed with our solar eclipse glasses (never, ever, watch the Sun directly), we stayed put, hoping the clouds would clear. We were mistaken.

After the darkness had passed, we compensated by downing a few cocktails. Other astronomers, some of whom had struck lucky at less cloudy locations, assured us it was all part of the game, which is why actually seeing a total solar eclipse is regarded as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**W**e had several consolations. At least we had not attempted the March 1997 eclipse over Siberia and Mongolia, where irate visitors had to endure cloudy skies. We had already seen England win a Test match, gyrated to the Trinidad carnival, and now we were drowning our sorrows at the couples-only resort Sandals, possibly the most flamboyant hotel on the island.

Moreover, we will get another chance next year. The total solar eclipse on August 11, 1999, grazes the southernmost tip of Cornwall. Many hotels and guesthouses are already booked, but we have every intention of travelling down there if it eludes us again; there's South Africa in 2001. But who knows — the Cornish heavens might yet deliver the blue skies that the Caribbean couldn't.

• *Anjana Ahuja travelled with Sandals Antigua (0800 742 242). Seven-day all-inclusive packages start at £29.10 per couple, including midweek BA flights. The price also includes all watersports.*

• *For information about the 1999 eclipse in Cornwall, call the Cornwall Tourist Board on 01822 274057.*



Sunspotters: Two Colombian Arhuaco Indians watch the solar eclipse through dark glasses

## P&O Stena merger may push up prices

PASSENGERS could end up being "ripped off" when P&O and Stena Line start a joint cross-Channel ferry service on Tuesday, according to consumer groups. Tom Cheshire writes.

The long-awaited merger between the two biggest cross-Channel operators was given the go-ahead last month by Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, following investigations by the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The new company, P&O Stena Line, will be allowed to trade without any price-capping until March 2001.

However, the Consumers Association is concerned that ticket prices could be hiked. A spokeswoman said: "This merger has created a monopoly situation. Let's hope they don't start shoving up prices. There should be a regulatory body that is able to cap prices over the next three years."

The merger means that the new company will have a 40 per cent share of the cross-Channel market. Seafarce, a smaller operator, expressed concern that this share might increase as P&O Stena Line would have a "dominant market position which goes against fair competition".

BUT OTHER rivals, including Eurotunnel (operators of Le Shuttle) and HoverSpeed, have welcomed the move, saying it would create more stable cross-Channel prices.

P&O Stena Line announced reduced "Early Booking" summer prices in a bid to counter criticism. For example, a return fare for a car and up to nine passengers on the Dover-Calais route, for any length of stay on the Continent, costs £98 if booked and paid for by March 31 — £61 less than the previous price.

"We're glad the merger has finally happened," said a spokesman. "Together we will be able to provide a better service."

The December 10 advice reads: "Since the Luxor incident, extremist groups have threatened further attacks against tourists: these threats should be taken seriously... Visitors are advised to take great caution when visiting the Nile Valley south of and including Minya Province."

## Foreign Office advice on Egypt is 'too cautious'

OUR operators are complaining that Foreign Office travel advice for Egypt is over-emphasising the threat of terrorism and discouraging tourists, Tom Cheshire writes.

The Foreign Office last changed its travel advice for Egypt on December 10, less than a month after the massacre of 58 holidaymakers — including six British nationals — by Islamic terrorists at Luxor. But operators say that it is outdated, as Egypt has since increased security.

The December 10 advice reads: "Since the Luxor incident, extremist groups have threatened further attacks against tourists: these threats should be taken seriously... Visitors are advised to take great caution when visiting the Nile Valley south of and including Minya Province."

But Declan Morton, of Hayes and Jarvis (which used to take 450 tourists a week to Luxor, but now sends 30), thinks the language is too strong. He said: "I understand that the Foreign Office wants to take a cautious position, but it does not reflect the actual situation facing tourists in Egypt."

Sonak Holidays suspended its Luxor programme following last November's massacre, but plans to restart it in July. An official said: "What I would like to know is why the Foreign Office has not changed its advice. An update is definitely due."

A Foreign Office spokesman admitted that changes to the wording were being considered. However, he added: "At the moment we consider the advice to be an accurate report of the facts. It would be wrong not to point out the track record of terrorism in Egypt."

First Choice is the only major British tour operator that has not gone back into Egypt. Eleven other big operators have either already returned or are taking bookings.

However, demand has fallen by more than 90 per cent for some holiday packages.

"There are now some very good bargains," pointed out a spokeswoman for Kuoni.

Egypt's Ministry of Culture announced last month that it is putting up electric fences around archaeological sites in Luxor, Aswan and Edfu.

Samia Khafaga, director of the Egyptian State Tourist Office in London, said: "The Foreign Office has got to change its advice now. Many security measures have been put in place which make another attack very unlikely."

**The one and only QE2 Spring Med cruise. With a host of huge savings.**

To book, see your travel agent or call Cunard on: 0870 6076070  
For a brochure quoting TMA/QE2  
or  
01703 634166  
For reservations.  
[www.cunardline.com](http://www.cunardline.com)

On 13 May, sail for warm Mediterranean sunshine aboard Cunard's magnificent QE2. Experience her timeless elegance and unrivalled facilities on a 16 night round trip cruise from Southampton to Barcelona, Palermo, Canakkale, Livorno, Villefranche and Palma. Enjoy specially reduced prices too — they start from just £1695\*.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

CUNARD

CRUISES ARE INCL. AIR, MEALS, GROWLER AND AIRL. EXC. SOUTHAMPTON 10% OFF. OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. TARES ARE BASED ON 2 ADULTS SHARING A MALE/FEMALE CABIN. EXC. FEE'S AND TAXES. EXC. 1 FEBRUARY 1998. CUNARD LINE LTD. 1997. CUNARD LINE LTD. 1997.

□ THE snow is back: those keen to take advantage of it should contact Ski Esprit (0152 616789). Seven nights' full board in either Chamonix or Morzine is from £378 per person, including return flights from Stansted on Sunday, March 15, transfers and taxes. Going Places (0541 553334) is offering seven nights' half board in Austria from £199 per person, departing from Luton on Saturday, March 14, and seven nights' B&B in Söll, Austria, departing from Birmingham, also on March 14. Return flights, transfers and taxes included.

□ BLACKBURN Coachlines (01254 54400) is offering a three-day tour of James Herriot country. Two nights' half board accommodation at the Hospitality Inn Hotel, Harrogate, plus excursions to Thirsk, Wensleydale, Hawes, Swaledale and Richmond and a tour of York is from £89 per person, departing on Friday, March 13 from northwest England, including Blackburn, Liverpool, Wigan and Kendal.

□ HAYES and Jarvis (0181-2227622) has greatly reduced its offers to Thailand. Five nights' B&B at the Mercure Resort Koh Samui is now £559 per person, saving £178 on the brochure price, and 12 nights' B&B is £599 per person, saving £188, up to April 15. Return flights are from £99 mid-week and £109 at weekends, including taxes. Flights depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; visits must include a Saturday night.

□ BRITISH Airways (0345 2221111) is launching a new route to Palma, the capital of Majorca today. To celebrate, BA has a special offer on all fares on this route booked before March 18. Return flights are from £99 mid-week and £109 at weekends, including taxes. Flights depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; visits must include a Saturday night.

□ HEAD FOR Istanbul with Travelscene (0181-427 8800), which is offering three nights' B&B and return flights from Heathrow from £238 per person, including taxes and arrival transfers. Departs daily.

JOANNA HUNTER

### FLYING VISITS

Departure: Monday 9 March to Saturday March 14, 1998  
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London - Amsterdam	from £55 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London - Antwerp	£40 BA (ex-Gatwick)	from £90 VLM (ex-London City)
London - Athens	£159 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£680 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London - Berlin	£129 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London - Dublin	£55 CityJet (ex-City Airport)	£59 from £69 CityJet (ex-City Airport)
London - Glasgow	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£198 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London - Lisbon	£107 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
Manchester - Madrid	£159 easyJet	£608 Iberia
London - Palma	£85 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£530 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London - New York	from £145 Virgin Atlantic (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£244 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)

Airline telephone numbers:

AB Airlines 0345 464748

British Airways (BA) 0345 2221111

easyJet 0345 445588

Virgin Atlantic 0990 292929

VUL 0171-478 0577

Note: \* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.

\* Availability is not guaranteed.

\* Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.

Few places remain in the world where you can be assured that nature in its purest form will provide highlights after unexpected highlights. The region beyond Norway's North Cape is without doubt such a wilderness.

This summer, you have the opportunity to join the Professor Multanovsky as she undertakes a series of 8 night cruises in July. You will encounter great concentrations of seabirds from Kittiwakes to the diminutive little auk and rarities like ivory gulls; magnificent fjords, a tundra landscape miraculously dotted with wild flowers and a stunning scenery of sheer cliffs and vast glaciars.

We will visit areas of extraordinary remoteness and beauty, places enriched by highly unusual wildlife including reindeer, walrus, Arctic fox and most certainly of all — polar bears.

Although we will set sail with a planned schedule, experience has shown us over the years that in order to achieve the most exciting expedition cruise, it may on occasion be advantageous to make changes to the itinerary, following a local reconnaissance, a change in the weather, ice conditions or perhaps a sighting of a polar bear or whale. Our 8 days in Spitsbergen will be much influenced by local conditions and because of our highly adaptable vessel and zodiacs we are able to offer a close-up, personal experience that simply is not possible aboard a large ship.

refurbished for expeditionary travel. The Multanovsky is a comfortable and well equipped vessel, accommodating a maximum of 48 passengers. All passenger accommodation has outside views and you can choose between a two berth cabin with shower and toilet or a two bedded cabin with shared facilities.

Public areas include a lounge/bar with library, single sitting dining room, clinic, sauna and an 'open bridge' where passengers are free to visit at most times.

The hearty and excellent meals are supervised by European staff.

Looking after the day to day programme on board will be the expedition leader and the team. There will be no formal entertainment, but the



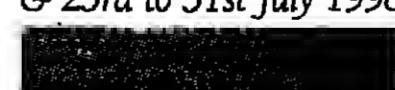
## Land of THE ICE BEAR

AN 8 DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE

TO SPITSBERGEN

9th to 17th July, 16th to 24th July

& 23rd to 31st July 1998



expedition team will organise briefings and illustrated talks. For our forays ashore we will use the vessel's Zodiac craft allowing us greater flexibility.

### ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Longyearbyen. Evening departure from Heathrow by Scandinavian Airlines flying via Oslo to Longyearbyen.

Day 2 Spitsbergen. Arrive after midnight and drive to the Multanovsky, embark and sail.

Days 3 to 8 Spitsbergen. Deep fjords, mountains and massive sheets of ice that cover much of the land. It is home to a wonderful assortment of wildlife; walrus, seal, reindeer, Arctic fox and polar bear. Only 600 miles from the North Pole, Spitsbergen has long been a base for Arctic hunters and North Pole explorers. Our days will be spent exploring the dramatic coastlines, seeking out the wildlife and enjoying the birdlife and wildflowers that give vitality to the harsh beauty of the high Arctic. Our itinerary will be flexible to allow us to take advantage of the local conditions, but will include the territory from Isfjorden to Danskoya in the north, and time permitting we will explore the southern region around Hornsund. Day 9 Longyearbyen to London. Disembark early for return flight to Heathrow via Oslo.

Prices per person range from £1,475 sharing a three bedded cabin (with shared facilities) to £2,095 for a suite. Single cabins from £1,215.

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376  
(7 days a week during office hours).

**NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED**

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE  
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0364  
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1242  
ABTA V221X



Venice from £214 per person. Extra nights cost from £24 per person. Transfers and taxes are not included. Departs from Heathrow or Gatwick on March 13 and 14.

□ HOPING for a hot getaway? Kuoni is offering seven nights' accommodation only at Hawksbill Beach Hotel in Antigua from £739 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes. Departs on Wednesday, March 11; call 01306 742222 for details. Also on offer is seven nights' B&B at the Full Moon Beach resort in the Maldives from £718 per person. Return flights from Gatwick on March 15, transfers and taxes are also included. Call 01306 742000

□ BRITISH Airways (0345 2221111) is launching a new route to Palma, the capital of Majorca today. To celebrate, BA has a special offer on all fares on this route booked before March 18. Return flights are from £9

## TRAVEL

CHECK-IN

*Because we think the world of you ...*

current best buys on the world's finest airlines					
includes all pre-paid fares	one way return	one way return	one way return	one way return	one way return
MELBOURNE	£338 £330	NEW YORK	£122 £165	CARIBBEAN	£207 £228
PERTH	£356 £275	BOSTON	£164 £188	MEXICO CITY	£275 £331
CAIRNS	£379 £238	WASHINGTON	£191 £171	JO'BURG	£231 £237
AUCKLAND	£376 £319	CHICAGO	£165 £185	CAPE TOWN	£231 £381
BANGKOK	£224 £272	FLORIDA	£199 £222	HARARE	£340 £504
HONG KONG	£269 £234	LOS ANGELES	£214 £224	NAROBI	£253 £278
SINGAPORE	£279 £239	SAN FRANCISCO	£214 £224	DUBAI	£208 £248
BALE	£287 £245	VEGAS	£214 £224	CARO	£165 £205
TOKYO	£336 £249	TORONTO	£189 £224	ROME	£80 £98
INDIA	£209 £280	VANCOUVER	£297 £364	AROUND THE WORLD	£244

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £38 • USA £29 • AFRICA £38 • PACIFIC £46 • ASIA £27  
USA CAR HIRE FROM £20 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

All our travel centres are open from Sat 9am - Tues 9pm • Sun 10am

TRAILBLINDERS AUSTRALIA FROM £475 RETURN  
ON SINGAPORE AIRLINESPLUS AU\$50 WORTH OF TRAVEL VOUCHERS  
TO SPEND IN AUSTRALIA

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • VACATION TRAVELWARE

Trailblinders does not impose charges on credit cards

Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved

worldwide attention to detail

42-50 Earls Court Road	LONDON W8 6FT
Long Haul Travel	0171-533 5366
194 Kensington High Street	LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Travel	0171-533 3639
First & Business Class	0171-533 3444
215 Kensington High Street	LONDON W8 6BD
Transatlantic & European	0171-537 5406
22-24 The Priory Queenway	BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Travel	0121-236 1234
48 Corn Street	BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Travel	0117-922 9000
254-264 Sauchiehall Street	GLASGOW C2 3EH
Worldwide Travel	0141-353 2224
58 Deansgate	MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Travel	0161-839 6889
First & Business Class	0161-839 3434

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE  
TRAILBLINDERS MAGAZINE  
CALL 0171-518 3260 ANYTIME

ATOL 1469 IATA ABTA 85701

... people think the world of us!



**FARES FROM £173 RETURN**

Our specialty is multi-state trips blending cities, towns, beaches and activities.

Getting there: Multi-state examples - return  
London - New York - Los Angeles - London £255  
London - New Orleans - Washington - London £359  
London - Toronto - New York - London £311Getting around:  
Motorhome from £301 per week.  
Special offer from Amcar £362 for the price of 1.Car hire from £25 per day  
(Excludes insurance and tax)  
Conditions apply, ask for details.

Coach Tours from £276

Save £32% on a 13 night 'Canadian Contrast' tour:  
Toronto-Vancouver from £618.

Special offer from 3 people share, excluding flights &amp; departure taxes.

Accommodation:  
Hotels from £14 per person/night  
Twin shareVillas from £28 per person/night  
16 people sharing pool access

All guides of Hotels/motels available

Choose how you travel and where you stay - tailormake your own holiday.

Call NOW for more information.

01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559



**FARES FROM £199 RETURN**

**BEST FLIGHT DEALS**

With over 22 leading scheduled airlines in Economy, Business or First Class

ECONOMY Fares:  
Bangkok £380  
Singapore £377  
Bali £345  
Kuala Lumpur £361  
Bombay £354  
Hong Kong £331**BEST HOLIDAYS**

• The beauty of the Far East is the affordability of superior and deluxe hotels.

• At Travelbag we are renowned for securing the best deals with hotel chains such as Hyatt, Hilton, Marriott, Shangri-La.

Other options include: Adventures, river trips, overland journeys, exotic beach locations.

**MULTI-DESTINATIONS**

Our specialty is multi-destination trips, blending cities, tours and beaches, including flights, accommodation &amp; day tours.

London - Hong Kong - Singapore - flights from £603

London - Vietnam - Malaysia - flights from £463

and many more!!! Call now for our Brochure

AMERICAS &amp; CANADA 0171-757 2000 AUSTRALIA &amp; NZ 0171-757 2468 WORLDWIDE 0171-757 2444 GATWICK BRANCH 01293 568 300

Glasgow branch: 0141 264 1919 <http://www.flightbookers.net>**NEW YORK FROM £155**

Other airlines return prices including pre-paid airport taxes from:

Perth	£469	Bali	£399	Malta	£234
Melbourne	£334	Bombay	£249	San Francisco	£270
Auckland	£219	Johannesburg	£339	Denver	£238
Hong Kong	£322	Washington	£169	Toronto	£194
Bangkok	£359	Chicago	£158	Mexico	£225
Singapore	£373	Boston	£186	Round The World	£298

Prices are subject to availability, THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES OR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS. To ensure quality service calls are recorded. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd.

**FLIGHTS DIRECT**Lines open 9am-7pm Mon-Fri,  
10am-6pm Sat-Sun

ABA 1324, ATOL 2345

0870 75 00 136

WE GO FURTHER TO FIND THE RIGHT FLIGHT

**Affair**

Flights

£149

£199

£229

£250

£309

£288

£279

£279

£171 385 4400

0161 832 4000

**NEW ZEALAND, THE USA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC ALL FOR ONLY £659**

TAXES INCLUDED

• Fly down to New Zealand with Air New Zealand and enjoy a free stopover in Los Angeles plus one of three exotic South Pacific Islands: Pago, Tahiti, The Cook Islands, Samoa or Tonga, for only £659 return.

• Travel anytime between 16 April and 30 June '98.

AUSTRAVEL

50 Conduit Street, London W1

Official Agent for New Zealand

ABA 1324, ATOL 2345

0171 734 7755

0171 838 1011

0171 505 1516

0171 200 1116

01202 311488

0171 927 7426

0113 244 8880

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

A 10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

**TRAVEL TIPS** by Jill Crawshaw  
 TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

**Modern view of Catalonia**

ALL LOVERS of modern art should ensure that they pay a visit soon to Catalonia, a wonderful region of Spain which is positively overflowing with the works of some of the greatest masters of the 20th century.

These include Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso, to name but a few — and the Miró Foundation in Barcelona, to single out just one art gallery, has a magnificent selection of 5,000 drawings, 217 paintings and 153 sculptures.

Lakes and Mountains Holidays (01329 844405) has week-long guided tours that will take in the best of the exhibitions, galleries and museums. The tours will go via Barcelona, Montserrat, Sitges, Cadaqués and Figueres, where Dalí is buried beneath his own

surrealistic museum. They will take place during May and September and will cost £629. This will include flights and hotel accommodation, as well as some meals and entrance fees.

**Babies only**


THOSE planning a holiday without children should take note — you may wish to avoid Europe's first Baby and Family Valley in Grindel, Austria. It offers amenities varying from babysitting and "happy walks" (nappy-changing facilities and fairy grottoes en route), to Baby City — a Wild West township with a saloon for wetting the throats of thirsty infants and drying the other bits. There are 77 locations ranging from five-star hotels to farmhouses, which cater especially for children, with flexible meal-times and no danger of childless guests complaining about the noise. Details from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 046); fax 0171-499 0038.

AS ONE Paris museum shuts its doors (Centre Georges Pompidou is closed for renovation until December 31, 1999) another one opens.

Situated in the all-right district of Pigalle, the Museum of Eroticism, which opened in November, has been described as a "treasure house" of erotica ranging from ancient Roman wind chimes that are overtly masculine, to what-the-butler-saw Victoriana. The museum, at 72 Boulevard de Clichy, is open daily, 10am to 2am; entrance £4.

**Georgian trek**

SHERPA Expeditions (0181-577 2717) is introducing two-week treks to Georgia in June and September, starting and finishing



Portrait of the artist: a surreal glimpse of Salvador Dalí, one of the modern masters who is the focus of a tour of Catalonia with Lakes and Mountains Holidays

in Tbilisi, the capital. The expeditions will travel in four-wheel-drive vehicles into the gorges and highlands of the Caucasus, stopping at medieval monasteries and fortresses. From there, ten-day treks among the mountains include visits to the villages of the Khevsureti region, a forgotten wilderness where many traditions have remained unchanged for centuries.

Both trips cost £1,170 for flights and 15 nights' full-board accommodation in tents and hotels.

**In memoriam**

THE Royal British Legion (01622 716729) offers 27 escorted tours worldwide this year. "Many people come for personal reasons, either because they bought there or to visit a relative's grave, but our tours are open to anyone interested in military history," says the organiser, Piers Storie-Pugh. "And remember that the arrangement by which war widows can reclaim most of the cost of the tour from a government-sponsored scheme

ends on April 1 next year." Destinations include Burma, Indonesia and India, Israel, Korea and Europe.

On August 7, the RBL is returning to Ypres for a three-day visit to mark the 70th anniversary of the first large British Legion pilgrimage to honour the dead of the First World War. The cost is £179 which includes coach travel and half-board hotel accommodation. A weekend trip in September will visit some of the East Anglian airfields from which up to

5,000 flights were made each day in the Second World War. On the itinerary: Duxford, where the first Spitfire landed in 1938; Little Walden and Bassingbourn, base of the Memphis Belle, star of the film. The trip, on September 12-13, costs £129 half-board.

**QUARRIES AND TIN MINES**, cotton mills and lighthouses are among the 58 working and living sites listed in an Industrial Heritage leaflet from the National Trust, owner

of the premises. The earliest, dating from 1584, is the site of Britain's first copper smelting works, Aberdulais Falls in Wales, where water is now used to generate electricity from a turbine and from a new waterwheel in the original wheelpit. The most recent is the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment base at Orford Ness, which was in operation from 1959 to 1971. The leaflets are available free from the National Trust (0181-315 1111).

**CHECK-IN**

**JETLINE**  
DURHAM TEES VALLEY AIRPORT  
01740 821100  
01740 821100

**TRAVEL ZONE LTD**  
0171 287 8997  
01551 476026

**FLIGHTWISE**  
0181 669 8607  
01476 560099

**AUSTRIA**  
£99  
01753 681999

**HOLIDAY PARTIES**  
**HOLLAND**  
**GERMANY**  
0171 287 8997

**NATIONAL PARKS**  
**WALKING TOURS**  
01753 681999

**CITY BREAKS**  
01753 681999

**EUROPEAN SPECIALS**  
01753 681999

**CITY BREAKS**  
01753 681999

**SAVERS**  
0171 929 5550

**PICK n PACK**  
0171 437 8868

**M TRAVEL**  
01476 404747

**benz**  
0171 462 0011

**FARE EAST**  
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

**Melbourne**  
£539

More great fares East from Singapore Airlines. Travel between 20 Mar - 30 Jun '98. Flights are from London. Restrictions apply. Pre payable taxes are included. Call Singapore Airlines or see our travel agent.

**SINGAPORE AIRLINES**

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL**  
0171 287 8997

**WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS**  
0181 669 8607

**CAUDOG HOLIDAYS**  
01476 404010

**PICK n PACK**  
Hong Kong 3nts £215pp  
Thailand 14nts £257pp  
Los Angeles 5nts £270  
Capetown 5nts £288  
Toronto 5nts £188  
Perth 5nts £188  
Additional destinations  
0171 437 8868

**M PORTO SANTO**  
MADEIRA  
MOROCCO  
GIBRALTAR  
TUNISIA  
GOZO MALTA  
COMINO  
BERMUDA  
SPAIN  
CYPRUS  
MAJORCA  
JERSEY

**benz**  
0171 462 0011

**FARE EAST**  
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

£539

**AMSTERDAM**  
£99  
01753 681999

**BRUGES**  
£99  
01753 681999

**BRUSSELS**  
£99  
01753 681999

**PARIS**  
£99  
01753 681999

**AMSTERDAM**  
£99  
01753 681999

**CITY Escapades**  
01703 828515  
0990 171819

**SUNWORLD BEACH VILLAS**  
Choose from over 300 private villas in  
Malta • Menorca • Costa Blanca • France • Malta  
• The Algarve • Cyprus • Turkey • Caribbean • Florida

for brochure or to book call  
0990 585858

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL**  
01703 828515  
0990 171819

**AIRPORT PARKING**  
01703 828515  
0990 171819

**CRUISE & SAIL**  
ABROAD

**WORLDWIDE CRUISING**  
01703 828515  
0990 171819

**CRUISE TO THE NORTH CAPE**  
0171 287 8997

**THE FJORDS & NORTH CAPE**  
0171 287 8997

**NORWAY & THE BALTI**  
0171 287 8997

**NORTH CAPE & SPITSBERGEN**  
0171 287 8997

**NORWEGIAN EXPLORER**  
0171 287 8997

**BLACK WATCH DOVER**  
0171 287 8997

**Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines**  
01473 292 222

**BLACK PRINCE DOVER**  
0171 287 8997

**BLACK PRINCE DOVER**  
0171 287 8997

**BLACK WATCH DOVER**  
0171 287 8997

**BLACK PRINCE DOVER**  
0171 287 8997





## SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS



## TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISER

BY VOICE MAIL when responding to an advertiser call 0897 505 563 (calls cost £1.00 per minute) and then follow the simple voice instructions.

All advertisements in Rendezvous have the symbol indicating that the advertiser has the facility for you to leave him/her a voice message.

TIMES

## ADORES THE ROOM

Glamorous, Sensual, Feminine, Party, Casual.

10277 562542 for bookings.

AMERICANS seek romantic, attractive women with a sense of humour. All aged British men &amp; English. Call Tel 0207 711 2544 (24 hrs).

Attractive educated Ladies &amp; Men from overseas seek partners in the UK. Call Tel 01483 565 7209.

BEAUTIFUL Thai Ladies. Colour brochure, Photo Booklet. Call Tel 0161 620 0882 (Confidential).

BEST PARTIES in London. Call Tel 0181 488 1246.

BEAUTIFUL, London, UK. London.

The Best Club for the Best.

Call Tel 0181 488 7876.

COMMISSIONS in the friendly club that puts you first. Ring Tel 0181 488 7772.

DISHY &amp; SENSUAL. Quality ladies. Call Tel 0181 488 7772. Just like you. Call Tel 7 days on 01277 244542.

EXCELSIOR attractive professionals.

EXCELSIOR. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

EXCELSIOR/Golden Club. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

EXCELSIOR/Golden Club. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

PERSONAL Introduction Service. Call Tel 01763 575003.

RENTALS. London. Call Tel 01763 575003.

THE DANCE CLUB (Tel 0181 488 7772)

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE CLUB. London. Call Tel 0181 488 7772.

THE DANCE



